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THE JERUSALEM POST



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The New York Times
Pocketing the wages of war
8-page pullout

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State protests to PA over soldier's abduction

By ARHER O'SULLIVAN
Israel has officially protested to the Palestinian Authority for abducting an IDF Beduin tracker, interrogating him for two days in Gaza and trying to recruit him into the PA security services.
The soldier, Sgt.-Maj. Juma Azazma, 20, of Rahat, was abducted while visiting his wife's family in the Gaza Strip, a move which violates IDF regulations. During the visit over the Muslim holiday of Id al-Fitr, agents from Mohammed Dahalan's security service detained him and held him for two days of interrogation, the army said.
However, Palestinian security agents denied they tried to recruit him as a spy and charged they were questioning him on suspicion he was spying on the PA for Israel.
Palestinian security agents have tried and sometimes succeeded in the past to recruit Palestinian collaborators as informants into their ranks, but this is the first reported case in which they tried to recruit a soldier.
According to the IDF, Azazma entered the Gaza Strip on February 9, dressed in civilian clothes, as part of a group of Israeli Arabs allowed to visit the PA area for Id al-Fitr. A day later, he was detained in Rafiah and interrogated by Palestinian security agents, the IDF said.
As soon as word reached Israel of his detention, the IDF demanded his interrogation be halted and he immediately be returned to Israel. The Palestinians released him on February 11 and he was taken into custody by Israeli security agents for debriefing. He told his Israeli interrogators the Palestinians sought information on base locations and radio code words, Israel Radio said. The soldier reportedly did not reveal any sensitive information.
"This is a great exaggeration," said Rahid Abu Shabak, deputy head of Gaza's security police. "We saw him loitering in Rafiah. We detained him for questioning and it turned out he was an Israeli soldier."
"We suspected he was being used as an agent or spy for Israel since he was dressed as a civilian," Shabak said, adding Azazma was released after a few hours.
"Now [Azazma] is a great hero claiming we tried to get him to work for us. That is a lie. We don't recruit Israeli soldiers as spies. That's a joke," Shabak said.
Following Azazma's release, the IDF issued a grave protest to the Palestinians over the incident. OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shlomo Yanai also issued instructions reiterating that IDF soldiers are barred from visiting the Gaza Strip.

Levy upbeat as talks resume

By DAVID MAKOVSKY and Him
Israel and the Palestinian Authority launched negotiations near Jerusalem yesterday evening aimed at broadening Palestinian self-rule in the territories.
The ceremonial opening, which consisted of speeches by Foreign Minister David Levy and PA senior negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, at the Kibbutz Ma'aleh Hahamisha guest center west of Jerusalem, was described by participants as "amicable." Both Levy and Abbas expressed optimism that the ensuing eight parallel sets of negotiations on security and civilian matters would be resolved amid goodwill.
A one-on-one meeting between the two followed the opening ceremony.
"The two sides have taken upon themselves to uphold the agreements amid reciprocity and responsibility and to create an atmosphere that is conducive to the peace process," Levy said after the meeting.
Despite the optimism amid general agreement that each set of talks should be held twice a week, concrete dates were not set yesterday to deal with the key Hebron pullback follow-up issues: the establishment of a Palestinian airport and sea port in Gaza and safe passage for Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank.
Israel's concern in those talks is security, and it aims for provisions to prevent the smuggling of weapons into the territories or people into Israel.
The IDF will head the Israeli team for the airport and sea port, while the Internal Security Ministry will head talks on safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza, Foreign Ministry officials say.
One novel panel scheduled to be launched is "people to people." It is intended to increase encounters between different segments of Israeli and Palestinian societies.
Two panels addressing ongoing issues are to meet today in Jerusalem. One is dealing with



Foreign Minister David Levy (left) gestures to chief Palestinian negotiator Mahmoud Abbas to take his place at the table, as a new round of talks on implementing the Oslo Accords got under way yesterday at Kibbutz Ma'aleh Hahamisha. (Reuters)

run several of the key panels. Indeed, officials say they are confused by the differing titles on the Israeli side.
Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh, who flew back early from accompanying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the US to attend the Ma'aleh Hahamisha opening, has been named coordinator of talks with the Palestinians. According to Foreign Ministry officials, Levy aide Ya'acov Bardugo has been named co-coordinator. Levy himself is called head of the steering committee, a title that some describe as honorific.
To add to the confusion, the person who is considered the dominant Israeli negotiator on the Palestinian track is attorney Yitzhak Molcho, a friend of Netanyahu's.
Molcho headed the Hebron talks and officials say he will head the crucial talks on the final disposition of the territories which begin next month and are scheduled to conclude in May 1999.
The next big date on the Palestinian track is March 7, when Israel is slated to stage the first of three additional pullbacks in the West Bank that are to be completed by the middle of next year.

Direct to Israel, via Nairobi

By HANI SHAPIRO
Normally airline passengers are only too willing to complain when flights are diverted or delayed, but there was nary a peep from the 380 passengers on El Al's flight OA2 from Bombay yesterday, when the flight was diverted to Nairobi and arrived at Ben-Gurion Airport over four hours late.
El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said the flight was diverted after a 24-year-old woman, an arriving new immigrant from India, took ill. A doctor among the passengers and several army medics who came to her aid found that she was six months pregnant and had a history of heart problems.
The aircraft was four-and-a-half hours from Tel Aviv, and the doctor determined that if she had to wait that long, there was a danger that she would go into labor.
After consulting with the operations center, the pilot determined that the nearest friendly destination with competent medical services was Nairobi, Kenya and the plane headed there, even though that city was over two hours away.
The El Al ground staff was on hand to offer assistance and get the woman to hospital, where she was admitted to an intensive care unit. As of last night, she was still reported to be in serious condition. Klieman noted that the passengers showed complete understanding and no one complained about the delay.

PM discusses conversion bill with US rabbis

By MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu faced dueling messages from two sets of American rabbis Saturday night, with the Reform Movement suggesting that pending legislation on conversion would turn Israel into the "enemy."
Netanyahu met first with a delegation of Reform and Conservative rabbis, and then with an Orthodox contingent that was highly unusual in that it included officials of the Orthodox Union, Rabbinical Council of America, Young Israel and Agudat Israel at the same table.
The Orthodox delegation affirmed its support for the coalition's agreement on the status quo. But, one Orthodox official said, Netanyahu knows "he can't make the coalition happy without getting embroiled in a major Diaspora fight."
Netanyahu had expressed concern about Reform and Conservative conversions, fearing that foreign workers in Israel would come to the US for a few days to take advantage of what one Orthodox rabbi called the Reform and Conservative movements' "quickie conversions," then return to Israel and claim citizenship under the Law of Return.
The Orthodox contingent said it would support requirements for "residency" in the US for a certain period as a way to avoid snap conversions.
"A Jew is a Jew is a Jew. You can't have different standards for who is a Jew. There is one address and that is the Rabbinat," one Orthodox rabbi said.
The legislation is "one more slap in the face to the progressive movements," said Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the

Continued on Page 2

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KITAN Golf levi's

Shmuel Segal at 72



NEWS in brief

Toddler drowns in yard Two-year-old Omnia Ina drowned yesterday afternoon in a water trough in the yard of her home in Tel Sheva...

Levy signs agreement with Mexican FM Foreign Minister David Levy and his Mexican counterpart Jose Angel Gurria signed agreements to combat drug trafficking...

15 kg of cocaine nabbed Police have confiscated 15 kg. of cocaine valued at \$1 million that was shipped in a container from Mexico to Haifa port...

Former Amidar head guilty of breach of trust Former Amidar board chairman Uri Shani was fined NIS 10,000 and given a six-month suspended sentence by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court...

Israeli Arab stoned on bypass road An Israeli Arab suffered serious head injuries early last night when the car he was driving in was stoned...

Palestinian security men held in torture death The Palestinian Police yesterday arrested Capt. Hani Ayad, head of Nabulus military intelligence...

Katynah strategy session held A theoretical exercise was held in Kiryat Motzkin yesterday on how to deal with the possible threat of long-range Katynah rocket attacks from south Lebanon...

Lebanon monitors hear complaints today

The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group is to meet at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura today to hear complaints from Israel and Lebanon on breaches of the understandings that ended the widespread fighting last April...

No new building permits for Hebron settlers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Hebron settlers emerged disappointed from their meeting with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday...



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai speaks to a settler during his visit to Hebron yesterday. (AP)

Mordechai has to approve all building plans in the settlements, including in Hebron. After visiting the city, Mordechai told the Arutz 7 radio station that to the best of his knowledge there have been no security infractions by the Palestinians...

Noam Arnon, spokesman for Hebron's Jewish community, said the Jewish residents were fed up with the constant delays in issuing building permits. "We want to expand the settlement in Hebron. Instead the Jews are forced to live in a ghetto-like existence..."

The site was the center of tension last week when Arab shop owners opened their stores, even though the market had not been officially opened. Tempers flared between settlers and local Arabs...

allowed to carry out renovations and build huge housing projects in Hebron and we are issued orders to stop work. Arnon was referring to an order the civil administration issued last Thursday demanding that all work cease on a new building, called Beit Noam...

market next to the Avraham Avinu complex. "We don't want any favors. This is ours; we want the rights of the Jews in Hebron," he said, adding, "We feel humiliated in this type of situation."

Sneh: Confrontation with Iran inevitable

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Confrontation between Israel and Iran is inevitable, Labor Party leadership candidate MK Ephraim Sneh said yesterday. Speaking to several dozen senior reserve officers at the Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel, Sneh said that within a few years Iran will have nuclear weapons...

nuclear ability. Iran can achieve this ability within a few years, he said. Commenting on the situation in Lebanon, Sneh said that given the current situation there is no alternative to the deployment of the IDF and SLA in the security zone. "Fighting the Hizbullah, which is supported by the Iranians, is the first - but not last - military confrontation between a Western democracy and Khomeinistic Iran..."

able gap" at present between the Syrian concept of the security arrangements, and Israel's security needs. He said President Hafez Assad's territorial demands are for the maximum, while his readiness for security arrangements and normalization are minimal. "The international border proposed by the Syrians in the Golan - the Jordan and Kinneret line - is not defensible. Consequently, the chances for a comprehensive settlement with Syria are slim..."

The reserve officers included major-generals Uzi Narkiss, Doron Rubin, Avner Hermoni, and Mordechai Ben-Shach. Sneh warned that Israel will have to change its overall security concept, in accordance with the strategic Iranian nuclear threat. He noted that the Russian aid to Iran had reduced the time it needs to obtain operative

US meets 'New Age' Likud leader

By DAVID MAKOVSKY

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting last week with President Bill Clinton strongly contrasts with an unforgettable White House encounter five years ago between prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and then-president George Bush. On the heels of the 1991 Madrid peace conference, Shamir spent the entire session with the world's most powerful man discussing what entrances to the State Department the Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese negotiators would use...

accent. After Clinton's first encounter with Netanyahu, the president wondered aloud to those around him about Netanyahu's bravado, as the newly elected premier had spoken in the Oval Office as if he were the leader of a superpower and could dictate terms to the Palestinians. It seems that last week's White House meeting was very different from the early encounters. If in the past Likud leaders wanted to keep the US out of the substance of the peace process because they believed this would reduce the prospects of territorial compromise, Netanyahu realizes that a new Likud post-Hebron approach in dealing with the territories requires reevaluating the role that the US plays. Having finally reached the conclusion that Oslo makes territorial compromise in the West Bank a fait accompli, Netanyahu now sees that it is critical to bring the US into the nitty-gritty of the talks. This is what he did the other day at the White House, as he presented maps of his broad outlines for a final-status deal with the Palestinians, and articulated his thinking regarding territorial compromise on the Golan, even though talks with Syria still seem far off.

In advance of the White House meeting, the IDF Planning branch prepared maps, outlining in blue Israel's "vital interests" in the territories, hinting that the Palestinian Authority would partially or completely control approximately 45 percent of the West Bank by the end of the interim period. Netanyahu's approach of seriously involving the US in his thinking at an early stage stems from his belief that to do otherwise would isolate Israel in the upcoming final-status talks with the Palestinians. The violence that followed the opening of a new exit to the Western Wall tunnel last September graphically illustrated that without the US at Israel's side, the world is more likely to believe Arafat and not Netanyahu is the arbiter of what is and, more importantly, what is not consistent with the seeking of peace. While nobody should expect the US to embrace all of Netanyahu's ideas, Israel can only gain if the US sees a "New Age" Likud leader, one who is not an ideologue but someone genuinely grappling with reconciling Israeli security and Palestinian needs. This will mean that Israel will not be alone as it faces the most critical talks in its history.

NETANYAHU

Continued from Page 1

synagogue arm of the Reform Movement. "Atmosphere positive; results negative," Yoffie said of the Reform and Conservative rabbis' meeting with Netanyahu. "He did not do much to address our concerns that, as a leader of the Jewish

people, he must be a unifying force in Jewish life, speaking for all Jews, of all denominations." In a telephone interview yesterday, Yoffie said: "Let him go into my congregation and explain why the State of Israel is doing this. The Reform Jews of this country would not have accepted the answers he was giving."

Only hours after Netanyahu attended Shabbat services at an Orthodox synagogue near Central Park, Yoffie had invited the prime minister to attend services at a Reform or Conservative synagogue in the US or Israel. "The prime minister can't even walk into the kind of synagogue that the great majority of American Jews walk into," Yoffie said. "If all Diaspora Jews are going to look on the State of Israel as the enemy, we are talking about a deep rift."

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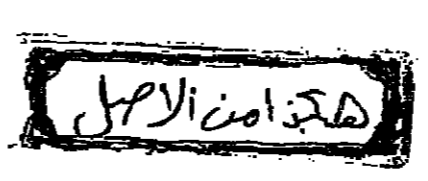
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With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather KURT PHILIPPSOHN The funeral will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, February 18, 1997, at 1 p.m., at Hayarkon Cemetery. Wife: Trude Daughters: Hanna and Ben-Ami Spectorman Naomi and Eri Heller Brothers: Klaus and Gert Philippsohn

With deep sorrow we announce the death, on February 13, 1997, of VIRGINIA ALKOW The funeral took place yesterday at the Herziya Cemetery Virginia Alkow leaves her loving husband, Jack Alkow daughters Marianne Baskin Gabriel and Elaine Baskin son-in-law Ken Krechmer, step-children Michael Alkow and Hedva Berg, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and Minty Allison

Strike... Shmulik Sep... NEOT HANI... JORDAN... 02-5702858



Strike immobilizes rail travel

By DAVID RUDGE

A wildcat strike by the 1,300 employees of Israel Railways paralyzed passenger and freight services yesterday, the busiest day of the week on the rails.

The strike was called to protest plans by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Finance Minister Dan Meridor to restructure the railways.

Long lines built up at bus stations in the morning, swelled by thousands of soldiers returning to their bases after weekend leave and commuters who would normally travel

by train. The Egged bus cooperative operated extra buses to try to ease the load, especially on the Haifa-Tel Aviv line.

Railways management and Histadrut leaders called on the workers to end the strike, which began on Saturday night and has cost the railways hundreds of thousands of shekels in lost income.

The strike had been due to end at 6 last night, but was later extended to 6 a.m. today. The workers did not say if they intended to cause any further disruptions.

Under the proposals, the railways would be separated from the Ports Authority and

split into two government companies - one dealing with passenger and freight services and the other with infrastructure and assets.

The workers fear that the restructuring would pave the way to privatization of the railways and could lead to their rights and collective agreements being eroded.

They have called on management to immediately enter into negotiations over the proposals and coordinate moves with them.

Railways general manager Amos Uzani said the wildcat strike was illegal and unnecessary and was harming both passengers and freight services.

He said it had been made clear to Histadrut officials and representatives of the workers last week that their rights would not be harmed under the separation plans and that management would coordinate with them.

Baruch Zaltz, head of the Histadrut's Haifa and district branch, said the union was supporting the workers in their demands to guarantee salaries and benefits in the proposed changes.

He criticized the strike, however, because the workers had not adhered to union procedures and declared a labor dispute beforehand.

NEWS

in brief

Heating fuel price down 10%

The price of heating and transportation fuel was reduced by 10 percent at midnight last night, the National Infrastructure Ministry announced. Gasoline fuel also dropped slightly, 0.3%, to NIS 3.20 from NIS 3.21. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Hoter-Yishai denies tax evasion charges

Israel Bar Association head Dror Hoter-Yishai yesterday denied tax evasion charges brought against him in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court. According to the indictment, Hoter-Yishai deliberately failed to report payments his father had received on his father's income tax return. He is accused of defrauding tax authorities of hundreds of thousands of shekels between 1990-92. *Itim*

New State Comptroller's Report finished

The 1997 State Comptroller's Report has been completed and was submitted to the Prime Minister's Office yesterday, the State Comptroller's Office announced. The government can now begin preparing its responses and drawing up plans to correct the defects pointed out in the report, which will not be made public until May 7. *Evelyn Gordon*



Making the right moves

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg learns some new steps yesterday from a Jewish youth dance troupe from Argentina, whose members are here under the agency's auspices to explore aliya options. The troupe performed yesterday in the plaza in front of the agency's headquarters in Jerusalem. *(Nissim Sharon)*

Thai worker stabbed

A Thai worker was stabbed several times in a lathouse in the Tel Mond area yesterday by a Palestinian worker who was apparently angry over the lack of jobs in Israel. The attacker fled and escaped. The Thai was brought to Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital. Eight foreign workers have been murdered by Palestinians in the past few years. *(Itim)*

Ramle rape suspect is 15 Tourism on mend

A 15-year-old suspect in the rape of a seven-year-old girl in Ramle several weeks ago was identified yesterday in a police line-up by the girl's 10-year-old brother, who had witnessed the rape and was hit by the attacker.

When shown eight youths of similar height and build, the brother, without hesitating, pointed to the 15-year-old youth, who was arrested late last week.

The youth is suspected of approaching the two children as they were playing in the schoolyard, and convincing them to accompany him to a nearby field, where he beat the two and raped the girl. Earlier this month, a 13-year-old boy was arrested in connection with the rape, and held for five

days, after he admitted involvement in the crime. But the brother did not identify him in a line-up and the youth was released.

Last week, police investigators returned to the scene of the crime, where the suspect, who fit the description given by the brother, passed by and aroused the officers' suspicions. When they approached him, the suspect immediately began to defend himself, saying he had had nothing to do with the rape, even though the policemen had not yet explained what they wanted from him.

The youth was arrested and remanded on Friday for seven days. Police said he has confessed to the rape and that items were found in his home linking him to the crime. *(Itim)*

Tourism on mend

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The tourism slump has apparently ended, but the number of arrivals is still far below the level a year ago.

The Central Bureau of Statistics, which published its figures yesterday, noted that after adjustments for seasonal factors, the number of incoming tourists during December and January rose by 5 percent compared to the numbers of those who arrived from September through November.

However, the bureau failed to note that although some 143,700 visitors arrived during January, this was 18% lower than the figure in January last year when some 176,000 people entered the country.

Tourism Ministry spokesperson Orly Doron said that from the end of August, the continuous decline in tourism since almost a year ago has stabilized. Doron noted, however, that there has yet to be an increase.

However, she added, the present indications are that tourism will be up in real terms by April, a trend which is seen by the hoteliers as well.

Shmulik Segal - little big man

By HELEN KAYE

He died the way all actors want to go, in the middle of a play. On Friday, Habimah actor Shmulik Segal had a stroke at the age of 72 while performing in a children's play in Ramat Aviv. He never regained consciousness, and died the next day at Ichilov Hospital.

It's hard to imagine our stages without Shmulik, without his inimitable smile, without the quiet voice caressing the words so that they purred their way into our hearts, without the gentle presence. He was

a little man, but so big. In 1950 the great Etienne Ducroux sent Segal a postcard depicting Notre Dame. "Her builders were modest, like you," he wrote.

"He always had a good word for an actor or a play," said Rami Hoyberger, who acted with Segal. Yossi Banai said of him: "He didn't just love the theater. The theater loved him."

Zubin Mehta adored him, so did Labor Party leader Shimon Peres, and so did children in a school he performed at during the Gulf war, "just to be doing my bit."

He was born in Poland to a religious, Zionist family and immigrated here at age 10. He was at Habimah for more than 50 years, starting with *Be'erot Hanegbe* in 1945. He played some 100 roles from French farce to Shakespeare to Greek tragedy. He had a TV role on *Neighbors*.

It was as a storyteller that Segal came into his own. For years he, Shmulik Atzmon and the Shmuel Rodensky toured with Shalom Aleichem's *Die Kleine Menselach*.

Segal will be buried today at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery.

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The courses, which are held all over Israel, meet during evening hours (and/or on Fridays) and are of 100 hours.

For further details and to register, call one of the employment centers of the Ministry in your area.

How to become a freelance writer

by NICK DAWES

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. They range from books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains, "if you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training."

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587277	Inflatable Foam for Checking the Gas Tightness of Cables Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices Tender Participation Preconditions: 1. Submission of one sample foam kit, not later than the last date for submitting proposals. 2. The bidder must submit copies of signed dispatch notes, confirming that the sample has been submitted.	NIS 351
578951	Manifold for Ball Valves Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices	NIS 351
587020	Analog Data Collection System based on a Rapid Scanner Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices Tender Participation Preconditions: All offered equipment must be from companies with maintenance and repair services in Israel, approved by the manufacturers.	NIS 351
585487	Cabinets for Production of Lighting Boards for Rotsberg Power Station Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices Tender Participation Preconditions: 1. The manufacturer must comply with the requirements of the Electric Corporation's quality guarantee and monitoring standard, Q2-2E or ISO 9002. 2. The cabinets must comply with gas-tightness standard NEMA 4X or IP 65.	NIS 936
529704	Contract for the Provision of Hotel Services for Corporation Employees on Courses Contract Requirements: Providing full-board hotel accommodation for Corporation employees, participating in courses. Period of Contract: From May 1997 to December 1997, with the option of extension from year to year, for two years, at the same terms, and the Corporation's right to early cancellation, as detailed in the tender documents, and in accordance with the contract. Tender Participation Preconditions: Only proposals submitted by parties that comply with all of the following conditions will be considered: 1. The bidder is the owner and/or leasee of a hotel that has been operating for at least 6 months, before the date on which this tender is published. 2. The submission of certificates showing that the hotel is registered in accordance with the law, and the hotelier is a member of the Hotels Association. 3. Every room in the hotel has an adjacent shower and lavatory, and the rooms have a radio, TV set and telephone. 4. The hotel has the following facilities: - A lecture hall with 120 seats, a blackboard, a shelf board, closet, TV set, slide projector, video projector, public address system; and two other halls each with 40 seats. 5. The bidder registers in the tender in Stage B at the tender that are equal to or less than the prices in the Civil Service Commission's tariff. 6. The bidder submits all permits, required under the Public Companies Law (Keeping Accounting Books and Payment of Taxes) 1976. 7. The bidder submits a copy of kashrut certificate, valid at the time the bid is submitted. 8. The bidder must be able to offer the Corporation a minimum of 50 rooms, for every course. The bidder must also be able to offer an additional 25 rooms for the accommodation of family members of the Corporation's employees. In total, a maximum of 75 rooms must be available for employees and their family members. 9. The bidder is to attach to the proposal for Stage A a certificate, signed by an auditor, that the hotel complies with all the conditions given in Paras. 1-8. 10. The Corporation reserves the right to demand any documents, required to be submitted in Stage A but not so submitted; such documents must be provided within 72 hours of the Corporation's demand.	NIS 936

Last date for submitting bids: March 9, 1997, at 11 a.m.

582899	Hand Operated, Electric Pallet Truck Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices	NIS 351
591844	Workers Time Clocks and Meal Ticket Printers, Including Control and Monitoring Software Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices Tender Participation Preconditions: A company which has an employee that participated in the drawing up of the technical specification for this tender, and a company that has been commissioned to participate in checking bids submitted may not participate in the tender.	NIS 936
587331	Series of 400 KV Distribution Boards Stage A - Submission of technical/commercial details without prices Tender Participation Preconditions: Bidders must have an authorization certificate, issued in accordance with standard ISO 9002.	NIS 936

Last date for submitting bids: March 16, 1997, at 11 a.m.

CONDITIONS APPLYING TO THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS: (in addition to conditions specified for particular tenders)

A. Provision of a guarantee of 5% of the bid total, in the form of a private check, should be attached to the bid, except for tenders requesting technical information only (Stage A).

B. Participation in a tender is also subject to complying with the preliminary conditions detailed in the Tender Regulations 1993, Para. 6(a) 1, 2, 3 (i.e., registration as required by law, compliance with mandatory specifications, and the holding of the permits required by law for businesses).

C. The Corporation may allow a bidder who does not submit any particular required document to provide it later, but within the period of time stipulated by the Corporation.

The tender documents may be obtained Sunday - Thursday, at the Market Research and Tenders Dept., 11 Sderot Pal-Yam, Haifa, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, on submission of a receipt, demonstrating payment (non-refundable) of the cost of the documents into the Corporation's account at the Postal Bank. Payment slips for making such payments are obtainable at the above address (Tel. 04-8514654).

Before purchasing the tender documents, they may be perused Sunday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 12 noon, at the offices of the Market Research and Tenders Dept. at the above address, and at the Sales Unit, 90 Rishon Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv, Ashdod building, Entrance Gimmel, Floor 1, Tel. 03-5654679, 03-5654641.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope, and be placed in Tenders Box No. 1, in the Pal-Yam building, Haifa (address as above) by the last date for submitting bids, as stated above.

No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

NOTE: In appropriate cases, the Electric Corporation will give preference to suppliers, in accordance with the Tenders Regulations (Preference for Locally Produced Goods, and Obligation to Extend Commercial Cooperation).

The Electric Corporation retains the right to negotiate, where this is legally permissible.

WORLD

in brief

Parliamentary runoffs fail in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Parliamentary runoff elections apparently failed in breakaway Chechnya because of low voter turnout, according to early results yesterday.

Police arrest hundreds of Iranian demonstrators

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Riot police broke up a protest yesterday by striking oil refinery workers in Tehran, detaining hundreds of demonstrators and taking them away in buses.

12 get up to 15 years for smuggling antiquities

CAIRO (AP) - A Cairo court yesterday sentenced 12 men, including three Britons and several Egyptian antiquities inspectors, to up to 15 years in jail for smuggling Pharaonic artifacts out of the country, a judicial source said.

Report two kidnapped in Venezuela

CARACAS (Reuters) - Two vacationers, one of them a US citizen, were kidnapped near Venezuela's border with Colombia by presumed leftist guerrillas, local daily El Universal reported yesterday.

Tajik rebels release 5 hostages

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) - A Tajik rebel warlord released five of his 11 international hostages yesterday after the government threatened to use force to free the captives and brought troops close to his base.

Emomali Rakhmonov, who will travel to the region today, the spokesman told ITAR-Tass. Their agreement served to avert, at least temporarily, the possibility that the 12-day hostage drama in Central Asia will end in an armed clash.

Efforts to end the hostage crisis hit a last-minute snag on Saturday when Sadirov failed to free his hostages as promised. The remaining hostages were to have been released when Tajik authorities allowed 28 guerrillas to rejoin Sadirov at his base 80 kilometers east of the capital Dushanbe.



National Front mayor sworn in National Front activist Catherine Megret smiles after being sworn in yesterday as mayor of Vitrolles, in southern France, as her husband, Bruno, looks on. Vitrolles is the fourth French municipality to fall under control of the extreme right-wing National Front, after Toulon, Orange and Marignane. (AP)

Peron reportedly offered fugitive Nazis safe passage

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Former Argentinian President Juan Peron set up a team to find key Nazis and offer them safe passage to Argentina after World War II, a Jewish historian says.

newspaper quoted Beatriz Gurevich, head of the research group, as saying. The report said the team included Pierre Daye, who was sentenced to death by a Belgian tribunal in 1947 for Nazi collaboration; Jacques Marie de Mahieu, a former officer of the Waffen SS in France; and Branko Benzon, a Croatian Nazi who befriended Adolf Hitler and Hermann Goering as ambassador to Berlin for Zagreb's pro-Nazi government until 1943.

Nazis into the country because of their scientific and military expertise. Just how many Nazis entered Argentina is not publicly known. Among those who came was Adolf Eichmann, and former SS Capt. Erich Priebke, who participated in a 1944 massacre of 335 civilians outside Rome.

South Korea criticizes North for shooting defector

SEOUL (Reuters) - South Korean cabinet ministers accused North Korea yesterday of trying to kill a prominent defector in the South and ordered tighter security for defectors and government leaders. Home Affairs Minister Suh Chung-hwa denounced the shooting of Li Il-nam, the nephew of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's ex-wife, as "an assassination attempt by North Korean infiltrators," a government statement said.

5 ONE-DAY TRIPS with Shorashim & The Jerusalem Post Travel Club. Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

AN EMOTIONAL APPEAL FROM 19 YEAR OLD NOA ESTHER SCHWARTZ TO THOSE WHO HAVE LENT THEIR ASSISTANCE TO SAVE HER LIFE. Greetings and may G-d bless you all. I turn to you in this emotional appeal for your assistance. Some of you know me personally, but most of you are only familiar with the story of the wonderful journey to save my life from cancer, which was detected on the eve of my Bar Mitzvah, first in my right leg and which later spread to both my lungs.

Separatists kill 22; India army gets special powers. CALCUTTA, India (Reuters) - The Indian army was granted sweeping shoot-on-sight powers in the northeastern state of Tripura yesterday, after tribal separatist rebels killed 22 people in three remote villages, a government official said.

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM. The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry invites the public to: The 1997 Stephen S. Wise Memorial Lecture In America-Holy Land Studies Land of Beauty, Land of Terror.

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Monodrama madness

By HELEN KAYE

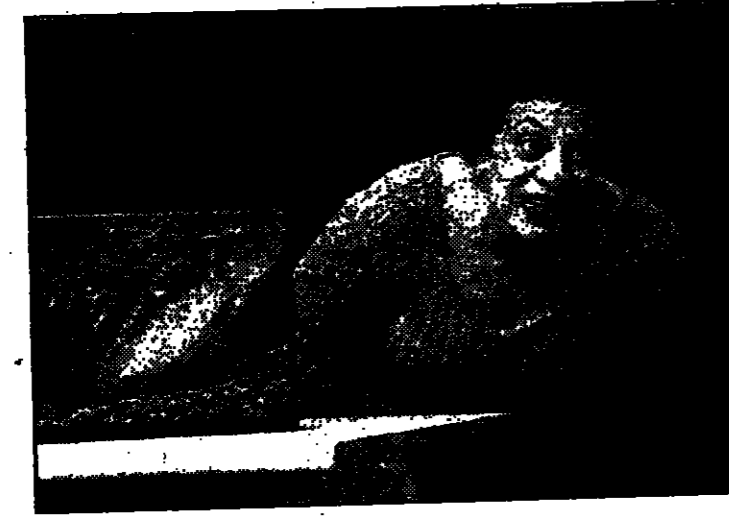
Israel's current affairs, whether personal or public, drive the 11 plays of TheaterNetto 1997, the eighth monodrama festival which runs from March 13-16 at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv.

"The common theme to this year's plays is questions about and involvement with what's going on in this country," says artistic director Yitzik Weingarten who's running the festival for the second, and he says, final year.

All but one are original, and their subjects run the gamut from Mr. V on convicted spy Mordechai Vanunu by Yigal Ezrati with Yonatan Cherchi in the title role, to *Call Waiting* by Shula Megiddo in which comedienne Anat Barzilai has a fateful phone conversation. The other plays, all approximately an hour long, include Itai Segev as *Magic Yotam*, his and Ehud Ashkenazi's adaptation of a story by Janusz Korczak, *The Spit* an evening of Orly Kastel-Blum's marvelously surrealist tales acted out by Orna Katz, *Red Ribbons* by Smadar Amitai in which sad-faced Uri Avrahami has to come to grips with his son's death while Israel celebrates its 50th, *Josephine* by Ravid Davara in which Nelly Amar in the title role talks to a carp, and Noya Lancet's *Along the Walls* in which the past closes around Hela (Rosina Kambos) who expects a second Holocaust.

TheaterNetto is both a proving ground for the ambitious, like actor Eli Danker who's making his directorial debut with *Siddown Mom*, his first play by actor Sharon Reginiano, or *Orange Blossom Time* written and acted by Alon Margalit, and a challenge to the well-known like Kambos and Avrahami.

Singer Arcadi Duchin, storytelling by Yuval Meskin and an evening of monologues more or less complete the lineup. The actors compete for an NIS 10,000 prize. The festival budget of NIS 600,000 comes mainly from the Tel Aviv municipality and the Arts and Culture Authority and the tickets are NIS 55, or NIS 40 per show if you buy by February 28.



Uri Avrahami (top) must come to grips with his son's death in 'Red Ribbons'; in 'Josephine,' Nelly Amar talks to a carp.



Anat Barzilai (top) has a fateful conversation in 'Call Waiting'; Alon Margalit both wrote and acts in 'Orange Blossom Time.'

NEWS

of the muse

Prize-winning films

Five young film-makers received prizes of NIS 5000 each from the Second Television and Radio Authority (STRA) in a ceremony at Tel Aviv's Eynav Cultural Center last Tuesday. The winners are Tali Bar-Ness for *Two*, Itai Lev for *Haravim*, Tal Maoz for *No Rain*, Hadar Friedlich for *People* and Yigal Shoham for *Don't Pity Us*.

The prizes were awarded by STRA franchises Reshet, Keshet and Tel-Ad, by the Authority, and by its Communications Development Fund.

Sixty seven short films participated in the competition, the first of its kind, established to encourage and assure the future of local moviemaking.

The competitors came from the country's cinema and communications schools and also from community television. Some of the winning films have already been shown on Channel 2's *Screen Test* and the others will probably be featured on the same program. *Helen Kaye*

Plenty operetta

The Bucharest Opera Theater is bringing Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow* (1905) and *Countess Mariza* (1924) by Emmerich Kalman for a country-wide tour from February 25 to March 3 with an 80 strong cast of singers, dancers and musicians.

The stars include soprano Daniela Vladescu and tenor Dorin Teodorescu. Both operettas are fully staged and will play in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, Beersheba, Nazareth, Nabariya, Netanya and Kfar Sava among others. *Helen Kaye*

In the name of the father

Young pianist Orly Shoham joined violinist brother Gil in a recording of chamber music by Dvorak for her Deutsche Grammophon recording debut. One of the pieces on the new album is the *Sonatina*, which Dvorak wrote for his own son and daughter. Shoham recalls that "was the very first piece Gil and I discovered together... at least 10 years ago." The Shoham duo played two recitals in Israel, one a very emotional event in memory of their father who has died very young. *Michael Aizenstadt*



Gil Shoham

Nagari in London

Composer Beni Nagari, whose short *Deba* will be premiered by the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra at the beginning of March, is currently busy at his London home writing new pieces for the Tel Aviv Chamber Choir as well as for the Musica Nova ensemble.

He is also writing a special work for the deaf percussionist extraordinaire Evelyn Glenny.

Glenny is due to make her Israeli debut in May in a solo recital at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts center and to return later to play Nagari's new opus with a local orchestra still to be determined. *Michael Aizenstadt*

Less Bite

In what some might consider an imaginative piece of sentencing, a judge has ordered American rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg to record anti-violence messages for radio airplay. The messages are part of a plea bargain Snoop, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, agreed to enter into.

Broadus was acquitted last year of murder charges arising from a 1993 drive-by shooting but faced a further trial on weapons charges.

The former L.A. Crips gang member - who acquired his nickname because of his supposed resemblance to the Peanuts cartoon character Snoopy the Dog, and who won an MTV award for best rap video with "Doggystyle" - has previously spent several spells in jail. *Tom Gross*

Oliver Stone investigates NFL

Oliver Stone, the movie maker who has probed into the worlds of JFK, Nixon and others, and has also tackled violent topics in movies such as *Platoon* and *Natural Born Killers*, is ready to combine both investigative filmmaking and violent action in the subject matter of his latest movie, *American Football*.

The New York-born writer/director's new film will focus on various aspects of what goes on inside the world of the N.F.L. *Tom Gross*



Oliver Stone

MOVIE REVIEW

The myth of 'the Big Fella'

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Neil Jordan's big, bloody epic, *Michael Collins*, takes place in that cataclysmic period of Irish history between the failed Easter Rebellion of 1916 and the assassination of Collins (played here by Liam Neeson) six years

MICHAEL COLLINS

Written and directed by Neil Jordan. Hebrew title: *Michael Collins*. 138 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children. With Liam Neeson, Aidan Quinn, Alan Rickman, Stephen Rea and Julia Roberts.



Michael Collins (Liam Neeson, center) and his friend Harry Boland (Aidan Quinn) vie for the affections of Kitty Kiernan (Julia Roberts).

later. Known to his comrades as "the Big Fella," Collins was the mastermind of various guerrilla tactics used by the IRA in the War of Independence against Britain, and later he served as a key member of the team that would negotiate the Treaty with England. This agreement led to the partition of Ireland into North and South, and was considered by some a betrayal of national ideals: the brutal Civil War that resulted from the controversy claimed many lives, including Collins's own.

Hasty, beautiful and sometimes confusing, the film crams an incredibly messy and complex history into a little over two hours, a feat which is both impressive and a bit troubling. On the one hand, viewers unfamiliar with the intricate

ins-and-outs of Irish political history are treated to a breathless but vivid crash course in the traumatic events and main players. Jordan also takes pains to fill the background of his massive canvas with subtly sketched bits: this attention paid to the identity of passersby and men-in-street suggests Joyce's sad, sprawling Dublin - a moody-blue, rain-slicked city (photographed gorgeously by Chris Magness) teeming

with busy individuals, all locked in the same awful fate. On the other hand, Jordan has streamlined the plot and characters considerably in order to make the elaborate saga comprehensible as drama. You don't have to be a historian of the period to sense that the story is too tidy and cinematic to be true in certain places. The issue is not whether these events happened exactly as outlined in the movie. The director has

stated plainly, and with admirable honesty, that he approached history here as "fiction in the making." (All epic-film-makers are engaged in constructing their subjects to some degree, as are biographers, historians and documentarists: not all are blunt enough to say so.) The problem is that by hiding behind this "just-a-story" defense in the particular, charged case of IRA history, Jordan comes uncomfortably close to revisionist mythmaking.

And his refusal to admit that the film might have certain contemporary political ramifications is frightfully disingenuous: Jordan is far too smart, sensitive and Irish an artist to actually believe that the imagination exists unattached to real life. "In dreams begin responsibilities" could easily serve as Collins's revolutionary credo; one wonders why Jordan doesn't extend this notion to his own artistic project.

Was Michael Collins really the boyishly chaste, selfless, warrior-turned-peace-lover depicted by Jordan, and played with convincing bluster by Neeson? Again, one need not know the historical nitty-gritty intimately to doubt that the man responsible for unleashing a ruthless chain of murderous attacks on British officials could squeak by without personally ever hurting a fly.

So, too, Collins's notorious womanizing is excised here, and his nemesis, Eamon de Valera, is depicted simplistically as an egotistical prude. (Despite the caricature inherent in the script, Alan Rickman's halting, poker-faced portrayal of de Valera is by far the most intelligent and strangely compelling performance in the film.) How many glaring character flaws, meanwhile, has Jordan erased in order to ensure the likability of his Major Motion Picture hero? And what, one wonders, would the world say if Warner Brothers were to suddenly release a star-studded extravaganza about the young Yitzhak Shamir and his romantic Stern Gang past, or Yasser Arafat's heroic beginnings?

Jordan comes to Israel

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Conductors are half-actors half-charlatans, says Swiss maestro Armin Jordan, who after several decades of a prolific career in concert halls and opera houses all over the world finally makes his Israeli debut this week, leading the Israel Chamber Orchestra in two different programs.

Jordan was able to taste acting first hand in the Hans Jürgen Syberberg film of *Parsifal*, Wagner's last opera, in which the conductor played the role of the wounded King Amfortas, lip syncing to the pre-recorded voice of Wolfgang Schöne. But this was not Jordan's sole role in the 1982 film. He also conducted the sound track of the film and he cherished every minute of the experience. But he does not think opera should actually even exist on the screen. "Opera has a mystique which is

totally destroyed when you watch close-ups of singers and see the fillings in their teeth. Opera belongs on the stage.

"Many directors have shot film versions of operas in the open air, as a film, and it is not right. Opera is not a realistic art form, far from it."

That said, Jordan definitely agrees that opera is a combination of theatre and music, albeit on the stage.

"I hate the concept of people saying they are going to see a concert. One hears a concert with the ears and not with the eyes. Which is why I don't like concerts on television when the camera suddenly focuses on the bassoonist for example. But opera is a combination, it's an audio-visual experience."

Speaking a mixture of German interspersed with some English, the gray-haired maestro, who has been the music director of Geneva's Orchestre de la Suisse Romande

for the last dozen years, believes that it is adamant for orchestras to have long-term relationships with their music directors.

"Before me the music director of the orchestra was Horst Stein, and before him Wolfgang Sawallisch for a decade [and before that] Ermet Ansermet, who led the orchestra for 50 years.

In order for an orchestra to have an identity it has to work with one conductor for a long period.

"This [is] what happened in Berlin with Karajan or at the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam with Haitink. These are orchestras who have a very easily identifiable sound. Music directors who remain only three years with an orchestra can barely achieve any real sound."

But after a dozen years Jordan is about to call it quits in Geneva at the end of the coming season. From now on he will work as a freelance conductor, doing first and fore-

most opera starting with a new production of *Parsifal* in Paris this coming April.

For many years Jordan was closely associated with the French repertoire, especially the works of impressionist composers Ravel and Debussy.

"I have had enough with French music. There is a limit to how much I could do that. Now I concentrate above all on Wagner, Richard Strauss, Zemlinsky, Schreker, Schonberg and Korngold."

Jordan is full of compliments to the ICO. After a few rehearsals he commends first and foremost the orchestra's strings. "In Europe the strings are somewhat aggressive, in Germany they have a very hard sound. But here they are very beautiful with a warm soul, it is a real pleasure."

Armin Jordan leads the ICO tonight, Wednesday and Thursday at the Tel Aviv Museum and Saturday at the Sherover Theatre in Jerusalem.

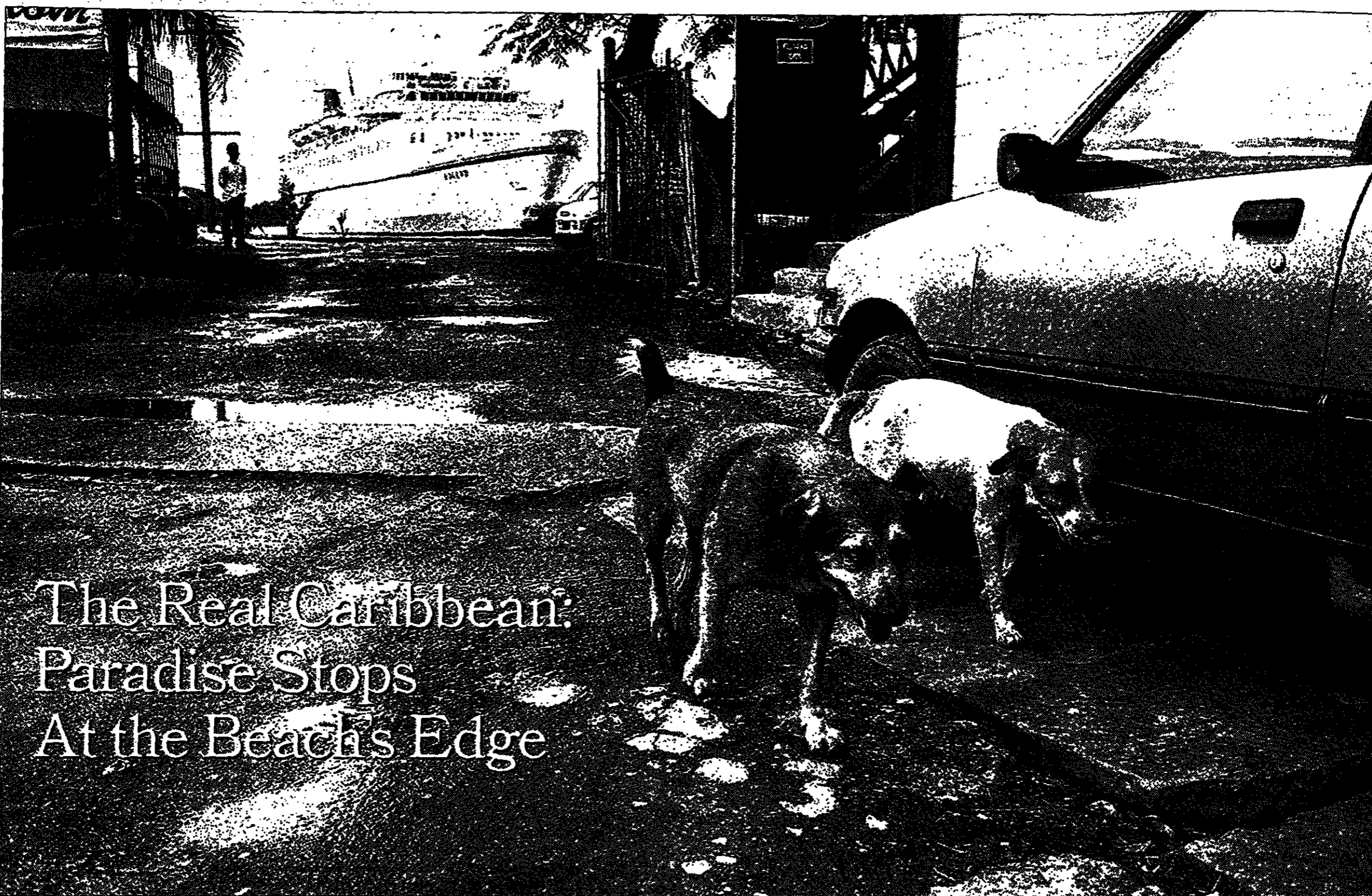
Korea North for defector

kill 22: Ind special power

Beauty, Land of

Beauty, Land of

Fantasy Islands



The cruise ship Bolero drops off passengers at St. John's Harbor in Antigua every other week, but few of them venture beyond the duty-free shops and bars. They won't see the one-room wooden shacks beyond the beaches.

The Real Caribbean: Paradise Stops At the Beach's Edge

By LARRY ROHTER

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua
It is a deliciously sunny Saturday morning at the peak of the tourist season, and at Heritage Quay here, hundreds of passengers are being disgorged from a pair of towering cruise ships into shops and restaurants with names like Smoke & Booze or Rasta Pasta. As a band serenades the visitors with a reggae version of "Mr. Bojangles," a middle-aged American suddenly begins to dance with a T-shirt vendor. "Did we mention that this is paradise?" asks one of the brochures handed to arriving tourists.

Or so it seems to outsiders. Yet this is also the place that the novelist Jamaica Kincaid, who grew up here, describes as a "monument to rotteness," an island nation barely the size of Queens that has been dominated for half a century by a single family whose doddering patriarch "perhaps by now thinks that the government is his own business." And what about that mysterious electronic listening post, bristling with antennas, radar and satellite dishes, that the American military operates just across from the airport where the charter flights from Chicago and Manchester land?
Beneath its frequently bland and cheerful surface, the Caribbean is a place long haunted by intrigue, malfeasance and poverty — and by the unyielding hopes of generations of people who have fought back against

the buccaneers who surround them. More often than not, though, that reality remains invisible to the 15 million visitors who come from North America and Western Europe each season.

What Tourists Don't See

Seeking sun and relaxation, they usually leave without having made contact with the small, tightly knit societies they are visiting or with the problems those islands must confront on a daily basis. For casual visitors, the only inconvenience likely to arise is that their hotel or travel arrangements may be disrupted, as occurred last week when the threat of a strike by American Airlines pilots led to the cancellation of scores

of flights before President Clinton stepped in to order a 60-day reprieve.

"From what I've seen, it's just a lot of shops," said Ed Vrabel, a passenger from Hickory, N.C., whose cruise ship was on its way from St. Lucia to St. Martin. "All these islands seem pretty much the same, and none of them look as nicely kept as we're used to in the States."

For the 63,000 people of Antigua, the central fact of their lives is the Bird family dynasty, which has controlled the politics and economy of this island 250 miles east-southeast of Puerto Rico ever since Vere C. Bird founded the Antigua Labor Party in the mid-1940's, when Antigua began a slow transition from British rule to

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Relatively Obscene How to make a physicist wash his mouth with soap.

By George Johnson

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Fortune of Soldiers Mercenaries and their new corporate face.

By Donald G. McNeil Jr.

4

On Balance

Deficit: Public Enemy No. 1, It's Not

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

WASHINGTON
AS the Senate last week debated a proposed constitutional amendment to require a balanced Federal budget, the Senators in favor would not let the opponents forget where the public stands.

"Between 68 and 78 percent of the American people have always been for this balanced budget amendment," Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah declared on the floor. "They come from all walks of life, from every group."

The balanced budget amendment, of which Senator Hatch is chief sponsor, is a central part of Republican doctrine. It would require the budget to be balanced by 2002 or two years after the amendment was ratified by the necessary three-fourths of the states, whichever would come later. The requirement could be waived only by three-fifths majorities in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Mr. Hatch's assessment of the public's view has been conventional wisdom here for years. Politicians were thought to be risking their political skins if they dared vote against the constitutional amendment.

Opinion polls seemed to bear out that perception. In a CBS News poll released Feb. 4, 76 percent of those surveyed said "yes" when they were asked, "Would you favor or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that would require the Federal Government to balance its budget by the year 2002?"

But a close examination of the evidence indicated that the conventional wisdom may be wrong. When the question was framed differently, people came down against changing the Constitution. Last month, this question was asked in the latest New York Times/CBS News poll: "Do you think re-

quiring the Federal Government to balance the budget is the kind of issue you would like to change the Constitution for, or isn't balancing the budget that kind of issue?"

The counterintuitive result: 39 percent said they would change the Constitution, but 49 percent said it was not that kind of issue.

Linda DiVall, a Republican pollster, said the finding was consistent with her experience. "People agree in principle we should move toward a balanced budget," she said. "But once the Constitution is brought into play, people say: 'Wait a minute. Why do we need to bring the Constitution into it? Why

No one seems to have lost a seat last year just because he voted against a balanced budget amendment.

can't the politicians work it out themselves?"

This may be why, despite all the threats of retribution, no member of Congress seems to have lost a seat in last year's election for voting against an almost identical constitutional amendment in 1995. That measure was adopted in the House then but fell one vote short in the Senate of the two-thirds majority needed to change the Constitution.

Whatever the value of balancing the budget, the matter does not appear to be high on the public's list of priorities.
When Mark Penn, one of President Clinton's chief pollsters, asked voters right after last November's election what the most

important issues were to them, only 9 percent said a balanced budget was. All this may explain, at least in part, why politicians who have stuck their necks out in recent years to lower the budget deficit have often fared poorly in the next election. For instance:

In 1985, Republican Senators took the lead in pushing through Congress the Gramm-Rudman legislation, which was supposed to lead to a balanced budget by 1991. In the 1988 election, Republicans lost control of the Senate.

In 1990, President George Bush bit the bullet on raising taxes and got a budget enacted that included strict limits on spending. The effect was a substantially lower deficit than would otherwise have been the case. Mr. Bush, of course, lost the Presidency two years later.

In 1993, President Clinton set aside a slew of campaign promises and persuaded most Democrats in Congress — against their best judgment, in many cases — to support a budget that included a further tax increase and more spending limits. Every Republican in Congress voted against it. In 1994, Democrats lost control of the House and Senate, and no Republican lawmaker running for re-election was defeated.

Then last winter, the Republicans in the House accepted the longest Government shutdown in history rather than compromise on their budget-cutting measures. Their popularity plummeted, and 20 Republican representatives lost their seats in last year's elections.

Robert D. Reischauer, the former director of the Congressional Budget Office, offers this maxim: "No good budget deed goes unpunished."

One reason, of course, is that people find the notion of balancing the budget less appealing when they discover that it means

The New York Times/CBS NEWS Poll

Mixed Messages

In gauging the public's desire to balance the Federal budget, it depends on how the question is framed

"Would you favor or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution that would require the Federal Government to balance its budget by the year 2002?"

Favor 76%
Oppose 17%

CBS News poll taken Jan. 30-Feb. 1, 1997.

"Do you think requiring the Federal Government to balance the budget is the kind of issue you would like to change the Constitution for, or isn't balancing the budget that kind of issue?"

Change Constitution 39%
Not that kind of issue 49%

New York Times/CBS News poll taken Jan. 14-17, 1997.

"If you had to choose, would you prefer balancing the Federal budget or preventing Social Security from being significantly cut?"

Balance budget 27%
Prevent Social Security cuts 69%

New York Times/CBS News poll taken Oct. 22-25, 1995.

Based on nationwide telephone surveys.

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leas & T
What a

The Nation

If a Republican Seizes the Center, Watch Out

By ADAM NAGOURNEY

FOR anyone trying to assess the state of the Democratic Party, the best place to look may not be Washington — where President Clinton just had the rare pleasure, for a Democrat, of celebrating re-election to the White House — but in New York City.

A mayoral election is taking shape in this most Democratic of cities, and the contest so far suggests that the health of the Democratic Party is much worse than it seemed when measured by Mr. Clinton's victory last November. The Democratic Party in New York City — historically a source of party icons and national ideas — is stumbling at the Mayoral starting line. It is wrestling with the likelihood that for the first time in 60 years, a Republican mayor, Rudolph W. Giuliani, will be re-elected by running as a Republican.

And while some of that has to do with the specific circumstances of New York (particularly, Mr. Giuliani's incumbency and political resourcefulness, a declining crime rate and a strong economy), it is also a measure of the sickness of the city's Democratic Party — and, by extension, the ill health of the Democratic Party across the nation.

'Type A'

Nothing dramatized this better than the announcement last week by the former Mayor, David N. Dinkins, who lost to Mr. Giuliani in 1993, that he would not challenge Mr. Giuliani again. Few people really expected Mr. Dinkins, who is 69, to run, and polls suggested that had he tried, he would not have succeeded. But it was a reminder to Democrats of what is wrong for them in New York. Here was a voice from the past who, with a few sentences, instantly obscured four people who have spent much of the past few years preparing to run for Mayor.

And Mr. Dinkins did that with a political message that — if forceful in its denunciation of Mr. Giuliani (he described the Mayor as a "Type A personality") — contributed little to the ideological evolution of the party itself. By the end, the reaction which greeted Mr. Dinkins' near-entry into the race suggested that in groping for a challenger to Mr. Giuliani, the party was profoundly unhappy with the existing field.

The election is still nine months away, and this is New York. But the episode served as a reminder that the party of Roosevelt, Koch and two Cuomos has this year produced what appears to be a cast of candidates with relatively little new to say. It is, arguably, not any Democrat but Mr. Giuliani who is mak-



Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani at City Hall. Behind him is a portrait of Henry Clay. One of them is known as the Great Compromiser.

ing the New Democratic case — preaching one day in favor of immigration and the next against Newt Gingrich. He has left very little breathing room for the Democratic field in New York. If Mr. Clinton's rightward shift showed that centrist Democrats can make inroads against the conservative Republican tide, Mr. Giuliani's success in a city where Democrats outnumber Republicans by almost five to one suggests even greater potential power in centrist Republicanism.

"New York is the perfect example of what should be frightening the Democratic Party," said Deborah (Arnie) Arnesen, a Democrat and former New Hampshire state Representative and unsuccessful candidate for Congress in 1996. "If they can't figure out what to say even there, then something is really wrong. We have to evaluate what is happening."

There are some Democrats who argue that their weakness so far in the mayoral

race is a local phenomenon, the latest spasm from a party still trying to emerge from the long shadows of Edward I. Koch and Mario M. Cuomo. And a few Democrats argue against drawing national lessons from New York, insisting that the more instructive lesson was Mr. Clinton's victory last November.

But Mr. Clinton's re-election was not based on championing either old or new Democratic ideas. And while Mr. Clinton was winning the White House, Democrats were losing seats in the Senate, and their gains in the House owed much to the unpopularity of Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker. The more meaningful election might well turn out to have been that of 1994, when Republicans took control of the House.

Even optimistic Democrats view these times as transitional. "We're still getting up off the floor after 1994," said Michael S. Dukakis, the Democratic party's unsuccessful

candidate for President in 1988. "But I think there's a great opportunity here."

All of which explains why what's going on in New York is so potentially important. It is a city that has always been "a bellwether in Democratic politics," said David C. King, an associate professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

The field for the September Democratic primary is made up of four people. The two leaders are Borough Presidents Ruth W. Messinger of Manhattan and Fernando Ferrer of the Bronx. Two others — the Rev. Al Sharpton and City Councilman Sal F. Albanese of Brooklyn — are considered long shots.

The early maneuverings of the front-runners are instructive of the party's plight: Both have devoted considerable energy to shedding the liberal Democratic label.

Ms. Messinger was once identified with many New York liberal causes of the 1970's and 1980's. Now she resists any attempt at

ideological identification. As she backs away from such long-held positions as her support for regulating commercial rents, she argues that the causes she took up in the past reflected the times and the Upper West Side district she represented in the City Council.

Mr. Ferrer did Ms. Messinger one better. He began his campaign by renouncing his lifelong opposition to the death penalty (an issue that has nothing to do with being Mayor, but often a lot to do with winning the job). He has also made of point of his opposition to certain forms of late-term abortions.

In New York, Giuliani is playing the role of New Democrat.

The candidates and Mr. Dinkins, who endorsed Ms. Messinger last week, have described last week's events as a transformation. "It represents a new day in politics," Mr. Sharpton said. "There is nobody in this primary that is connected to the old 60's type of liberal Democratic coalition. It's almost a passing of the torch to another generation."

But it is unclear exactly what is being passed, and to whom. Mr. Ferrer and Ms. Messinger have done little beyond attempting to step on their own roots. If there are any new ideas about what Democrats should be doing about governing, or even winning elections, they have yet to be heard.

It is in this environment that Mr. Giuliani has shaped a distinctive political personality, blending fiscal conservatism, crime-fighting and emphasis on improving the quality of life in New York.

Sending a Message

In that regard, he has been much more active than Mr. Clinton. But like Mr. Clinton, he has blurred party labels, taking the endorsement of the Liberal Party and stressing his support for issues like abortion rights.

So the Democrats might end 1997 finding little of value coming out of the political laboratory of New York. By contrast, Mr. Giuliani's political experiments appear to be doing well — should Republicans political leaders, who have never liked him very much, choose to take a look next November.

"Giuliani is a message to his party," said Ms. Arnesen, the New Hampshire Democrat. "It is: 'Look what's happening in a traditional Democratic enclave. I'm winning, and they can't even figure out how to run against me.'"

Watch That Air Bag

When Safety Devices Bite Back

By MATTHEW L. WALD

THE Air National Guard F-16 flying near Atlantic City thought it was swooping in unobserved on a Nations Air Boeing 727 on Feb. 5. Instead, it set off computerized anti-collision alarms in the passenger jet's cockpit, and the civilian pilot's emergency maneuvers — a steep dive, then a climb — threw three people to the floor of the passenger cabin.

The alarms were meant to increase safety, to prevent mid-air collisions, but instead they created risk. The F-16, for that matter, was also built to keep Americans safe from risk, but from foreign threats, not domestic airliners.

Technology, on a good day, is used to make products safer — irons that turn themselves off, automobile brakes that prevent skids and car phones that make it easier to call for help. Car phones may be useful after accidents, but as statistics released last week showed, they might actually be the cause of some accidents. When safety technology presents its own threat, it's the cloud around the silver lining; sometimes adding safety features doesn't really make things safer.

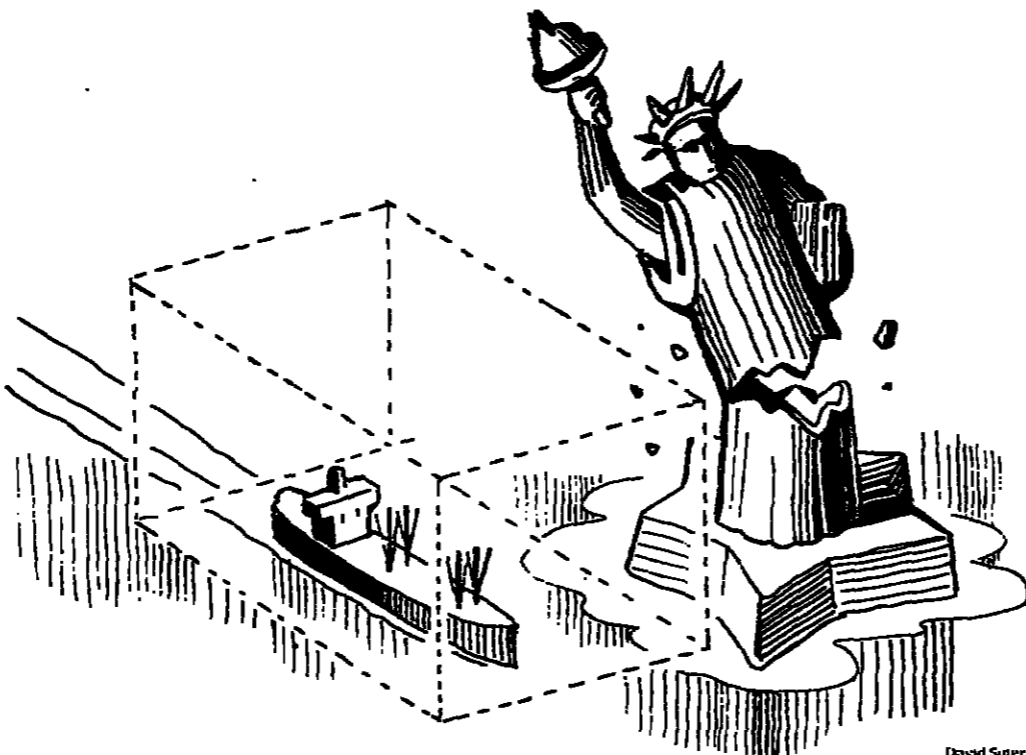
The aviation industry is wondering about this paradox, and not just in its anti-collision systems. Precision navigation poses another problem. In the middle of the ocean, there is no radar coverage. When jets are flying over those radarless areas, each is assigned to a different block of space. For years, air traffic controllers say, if two planes were assigned to the same block by mistake it probably wouldn't matter. Navigation instruments were so imprecise that it was unlikely they would really be near each other.

Too Precise

Now, with the precision of the global positioning system — a halo of satellites launched by the Pentagon and widely used by civilians — each plane is precisely at the center of its assigned track, and two planes might follow instructions closely enough to collide.

The hazards of the new precision are not limited to aviation. In New York Harbor, ships are also equipped with instruments that navigate by the global positioning system. But the ships cannot rely completely on this system because it does not match existing charts' rendition of where channels and bulkheads are. A pilot who uses a precise computer-generated map to navigate but who also looks out the window for landmarks will discover that if he really knows where he is, then the Statue of Liberty, obstructions and channels are in the wrong place by several yards.

A little knowledge coupled with precise technology, can sometimes be a problem. For example, automobile air bags have crouched patiently for years in dashboards and steering wheel hubs, waiting to lean out at up to 200 miles per hour to



David Suter

intercept a human face racing towards an unyielding automobile part. For years those air bags made everyone feel safer, until a few air bags hit children hard enough to kill them. Now everyone feels unsafe again.

All these events seemed to touch a nerve, even among professionals: pilots and controllers, in the two days after the first F-16 incident, reported two other events of fighters in the wrong place. These reports, experts say, were probably more indicative of heightened sensitivity, or maybe chance, than of an actual epidemic of wayward fighter jocks.

"People are particularly outraged when things designed to make them safe make them at risk," said Peter M. Sandman, a risk consultant based in Newton, Mass. In the case of the F-16 incident, both the anti-collision system on the civilian jet and the fighter plane itself were supposed to keep people safe. "The idea that something designed to help you winds up hurting you triggers that infantile how-dare-you-are-supposed-to-be-on-my-side response," he said.

Flying is still the safest commercial mode of travel, and with the introduction in recent years of wind-shear detectors, better engines and other advances, it has never been safer. But no one likes a safety device that adds risk, even if it adds a net benefit. And aviation is an area in which everyone's risk perception is what Mr. Sandman gently referred to as "non-statistical." When passengers feel they are not in control they become extremely risk-averse, he said. And the public has a low tolerance for any such risk.

This comes at a time when the Air Force is facing its own problems. One is that the Air Force is struggling with the rest of the Pentagon for its image and its slice of the national budget in these years of peace. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg, Democrat of New Jersey, an aviation buff and member of the Intelligence Committee, quickly asked the Pentagon to justify the Air National Guard's training activities.

And the event recalled, however peripherally, T.W.A. Flight 800, which exploded last July in circumstances that still have not been explained. In that vacuum, the idea that the accident was caused by "friendly fire" from an American plane continues to reverberate, even though there is no evidence for a missile of any kind.

Ultimate Safety

Pilots say that warplanes in training drills do sometimes use their radars to lock onto passing civilian flights, although the Air Force maintains that this was not what was happening with last week's 727 encounter; the Air Force simply was trying to find out what the other plane was.

The ultimate safety features on planes, though, are the people who fly them. One cause of apprehension is the image of Air National Guard pilots as reckless weekend warriors with top gun fantasies, the opposite of stable airline pilots. In fact, the F-16 pilot that got too close to the 727 was not a weekend warrior but a full time instructor. In that he differed from most Guard pilots: they are airline pilots, mountaintop.

The Deficit Isn't Public Enemy No. 1

Continued From Page 1

they have to pay higher taxes or lose Government services they enjoy.

For example, the same surveys that have shown over the years that the public strongly supports the balanced budget amendment have also found that the public opposes such an amendment by a large margin if they believe it would lead to lower Social Security benefits.

In a New York Times/CBS News poll in October 1995, people were asked, "If you had to choose, would you prefer balancing the Federal budget or preventing Social Security from being significantly cut?" Only 27 percent favored balancing the budget; 69 percent favored maintaining Social Security benefits.

Two years ago, Democrats in Congress seized on the Social Security issue to create just enough opposition to block the amendment. They may be succeeding again this year.

Last week, Republican leaders in the House of Representatives postponed further action on the constitutional change indefinitely when they realized they might not have enough votes to get their amendment out of the Judiciary Committee, much less have it adopted on the floor. The leaders said they were hoping Senate approval would create momentum for the measure in the House.

But approval in the Senate is very

much in doubt. Senators in both parties agree that the outcome hinges on the votes of three freshman Democrats who have not announced their position: Tim Johnson of South Dakota, Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana and Robert G. Torricelli of New Jersey. Assuming all other senators vote as expected, two of the three freshmen must support the amendment to reach the necessary two-thirds majority.

With the budget deficit last year the smallest since Ronald Reagan became President, some lawmakers may feel less pressure than they once did to pass a constitutional amendment.

But if the measure does fail, it will probably not be on the merits but on the politics. Members of Congress may have discovered that voting against it is not the poison pill they once thought it was.

"This is just not a do-or-die litmus test issue for most voters," said Geoffrey Garin, who has conducted polls for dozens of Democratic politicians in recent years.

That was certainly the experience of Senator Kent Conrad, a Democrat from North Dakota, who cast what was seen as the swing vote against the amendment two years ago. "When I played a central role in defeating the last one," Senator Conrad said last week, "my numbers shot up."



President Clinton's proposed budget, in the spotlight earlier this month.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Ideas & Trends

What a Physicist Finds Obscene

By GEORGE JOHNSON

STEPHEN HAWKING has never been known as a particularly prudish man. Once, about 20 years ago, he agreed to give his fellow physicist Kip Thorne a one-year subscription to Penthouse magazine if a certain black hole, believed to be lurking in the constellation Cygnus, turned out to really exist.

In 1990, Dr. Hawking rolled into Dr. Thorne's office in his wheelchair, and conceded the bet. Whether the black hole was unequivocally real remained unproven. But Dr. Hawking believed that the indirect evidence had become overwhelming.

Last week it was announced that he lost another wager about the cosmos. But this time the stakes were much higher. While Penthouse pictures may not have offended Dr. Hawking, the possibility that the universe might harbor a more fundamental kind of nudity — what physicists call a naked singularity — shocked him to the very core.

A singularity is a tear in the fabric of space and time where the laws of physics break down and anything is possible. A naked singularity, which Dr. Hawking had bet cannot exist, would be particularly embarrassing, for it might allow space and time to become so hopelessly scrambled that people could travel back into the past and kill their own parents — mess with history, or interfere with the time line, as they say on "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

In the 1960's Dr. Hawking himself, collaborating

with his British colleague Roger Penrose, demonstrated that singularities indeed exist inside black holes. But these "clothed" singularities are not considered so terribly obscene.

Since a black hole sucks in everything around it, including light, its interior is sealed off from the rest of the universe. Nothing that happens inside a black hole matters to the outside world. What you can't know won't hurt you — a cherished principle of physics. But a naked singularity — one unshielded by a black hole — would be a sign of cosmic anarchy, an affront to the notion of universal law.

Cover That Naked Singularity

Declaring that "naked singularities are an anathema and should be prohibited by the laws of classical physics," Dr. Hawking in 1991 bet Dr. Thorne and another physicist, John Preskill, £100 (then worth nearly \$200) that these abominations cannot possibly occur. The loser also agreed "to reward the winner with clothing to cover the winner's nakedness." The clothing was to be embroidered with "a suitable concessionary message." Because Lou Gehrig's disease is causing Dr. Hawking's motor control to degenerate, he signed the agreement with a thumbprint.

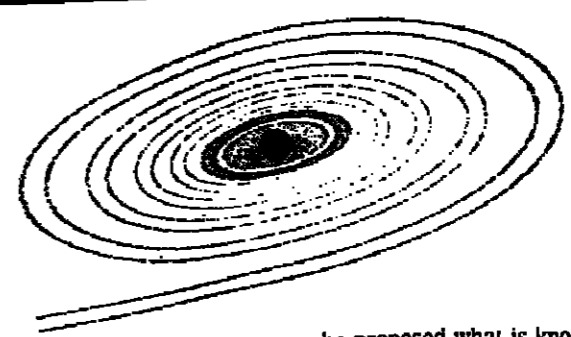
Dr. Hawking, author of the best-selling book, "A Brief History of Time," is probably the most famous physicist in the world — a tribute to his genius as both a theoretician and a self-promoter. Dr. Hawking has let it be known that he was born on the anniversary of Galileo's death (a coincidence of great astrological significance)

and that he holds the very same chair at Cambridge University that Isaac Newton once did. Many colleagues, who admire the way Dr. Hawking has overcome his handicap to do important theoretical work, were nonetheless dumbfounded to see him billed on the jacket of "A Brief History of Time" (Bantam) as "the most brilliant theoretical physicist since Einstein."

Not even Dr. Hawking's messy personal life seems to have tarnished his image. In 1995, after divorcing his wife of 26 years, he married his nurse — who left her husband, the man who had built the electronic keyboard that keeps the paralyzed Dr. Hawking's feelings and ideas from being trapped in their own black hole. No one knew better than Dr. Hawking that earthly laws and contracts can be bent and overturned at will. But the universe must be held to a higher standard.

Dr. Hawking didn't doubt that black holes themselves existed. His first bet with Dr. Thorne was something of a publicity stunt. Had black holes turned out to be a fantasy, Dr. Hawking would have received a four-year subscription to Private Eye, the British satiric magazine, as consolation for the large career investment he would have squandered in theorizing about them.

Though evidence of black holes is necessarily indirect, they are logical consequences of Einstein's general theory of relativity. When a star runs out of nuclear fuel, it should succumb to the pull of its own gravity, contracting into a dense burnt cinder. But if the star is massive enough to begin with, it will keep right on collapsing. The star will contract into a point of infinite density, where time and space are ripped to pieces and causality breaks down — a singular place indeed.



It was Dr. Penrose who proposed what is known as the "cosmic censorship" hypothesis: singularities must be "decently hidden," as Dr. Hawking once put it, in places where they cannot be seen by physicists or anyone else in the law-abiding universe.

Dr. Hawking was forced to concede the bet after a computer simulation by Matthew Choptuik of the University of Texas in Austin showed that under very rare and contrived circumstances a black hole might collapse in such a way that its singularity would be exposed, in principle for all to see. But the chances are so slender that Dr. Hawking still insists that "nature abhors a naked singularity." That was the supposedly concessionary message he had embroidered on T-shirts for Dr. Thorne and Dr. Preskill. And he hasn't yet paid the £100.

Having lost on a technicality, Dr. Hawking immediately placed another bet — that there is no general way that these obscenities could form.

Someone Needs a Bookie

In fact Dr. Hawking has apparently placed so many wagers that he may need a bookie to keep track of them all. Dr. Thorne, in his book "Black Holes and Time Warps: Einstein's Outrageous Legacy" (Norton, 1994), says that Dr. Hawking offered to bet that something called "the chronology protection conjecture" is true. Even if a naked singularity can exist, this principle would insure that time travel is impossible, even in principle. That nature abhors a time machine. This, Dr. Hawking said, would "keep the world safe for historians." Dr. Thorne wasn't willing to take the bet.

The Real Caribbean: Where Paradise Stops

Continued From Page 1

independence, which came in 1981. Over time, and increasingly, his critics charge, Mr. Bird and his sons, including Lester, the current Prime Minister, have made Antigua a haven for fast-buck artists and con men of every stripe; meanwhile, the critics say, the Birds use their own share of the loot to maintain themselves in power.

In 1990, for instance, Vere Bird Jr., the Minister of Public Works and Communication, was implicated in a scheme to smuggle arms from Israel to the Medellín drug cartel in Colombia. The result was an international scandal, his resignation and street protests in which demonstrators carried placards demanding that "The Birds Must Go!" — but no prison sentence. It later emerged that in the 1970's Antigua had also diverted shipments of Canadian 155-millimeter howitzers to South Africa for use by its troops against Cuban forces in Angola.

Then, in 1995, another Bird brother, Ivor, was fined \$75,000 after being caught with a 25-pound shipment of cocaine as he boarded a plane at the airport, which is named for his father. Last year, American officials expressed concern that organized crime groups from Russia had opened offshore banks here to launder billions of dollars in profits from arm sales, drug trafficking, extortion and prostitution. Even more recently, companies promoting gambling over the Internet have begun springing up here.

"Any unregulated activity quickly finds itself with Antigua as its prime headquarters," said Tim Hector, who is an editor of The Outlet, one of the few news publications here that the Birds do not control, and an opposition member of the Senate. Antiguan politics, he added, are "the politics of greed," offering "infinite opportunities for corruption" and engendering a cynicism among the population that spills over into tourism, which accounts for more than half of the country's income and employment.

"Local people are asking where is their stake in the economy," Mr. Hector said. "They read that the average per capita income here is more than \$6,000 [U.S.] a year, and they know they aren't making that kind of money themselves. What they see is



Tourists gaze down at English Harbor in Antigua. The harbor is popular with private yacht owners because it is far away from where the cruise ships tie up.

The ruling family treats Antigua as its own cash machine.

the corrosion of beliefs and standards that has come with the money economy."

As visitors are often surprised to discover, the Caribbean is full of morally conservative societies often appalled by what they see as the licentiousness of their visitors and the complicity of their own rulers. Barbados, the most prosperous and content of the eastern tourist islands, is probably the best example of that sort of rectitude. But other islands, among them Antigua, forbid topless or nude bathing as well, and their residents or nude bathing as well, and their residents ignore those regulations and the local police look the other way (or sometimes stare). Those islands, like Antigua, that have cast nos grudgingly allow their citizens to work there, but most prohibit them from entering after work hours to gamble their money.

At the moment, one of the most contentious issues on the handful of islands that remain under British rule, such as the Cayman, Turks and Caicos and British Virgin Islands, is London's effort to extend legislation that legalizes homosexual acts between consenting adults. "You can't dictate sexual preference, but this goes against the grain in this type of society," argued the Rev. Errol Brooks, the senior Anglican clergyman on Anguilla, an island of 9,000 people that is a favorite of upscale European travelers. "One must take into consideration the mores and norms of a society rather than enforce foreign values."

In contrast to 25 years ago, however, the Caribbean is no longer debating whether it



Inland, in the village of Old Road, an Antiguan woman waits for the bus.



A bust of Vere C. Bird watches over the action near Heritage Quay, Antigua.

wants tourism or not: even Cuba has finally jumped in. Compared with harvesting sugar cane, working in a hotel not only pays better, it is less physically taxing. And besides, what alternatives to tourism are there now that the United States is attempting to kill off the banana and apparel industries through trade restrictions? The only other choices may be growing marijuana or selling passports to foreign businessmen, a scheme Grenada is about to try, based on its success here and in Dominica. Instead, the big arguments you hear nowadays are about whether the small islands are getting a fair deal from large hotel chains, condominium developers, cruise lines and the foreigners who run them.

Riot police on the island of St. Martin, ruled jointly by France and The Netherlands, fired tear gas last month at rock-throwing hotel workers who were fired after Hurricane Luis passed through in Septem-

ber 1995. But now that the hotels are reopening, 133 former employees want either severance pay or their old jobs back; taxi and bus drivers have also gone on strike to protest an increase in the price of gasoline.

A few miles away, Anguilla is debating whether to allow cruise ships to dock more than twice a month. Hoteliers say no, suggesting that guests paying up to \$1,200 a night do not want to — and should not have to — mingle with hot polloi. But most taxi drivers and store owners on the island favor the proposal, hoping not only that the tourism pie will be bigger, but that they will get a larger slice of it.

Profits Sent Away

"The money is not trickling down to us because the tourists stay in their resorts and the hotel owners send their profits back to their home country," said Bob Rogers, who

with his wife Lillian owns a livery service in Anguilla. "If tourism doesn't produce benefits for the people who live on this island, then there really is no point in having it around, is there?"

Away from the beaches and the hotels, in areas of the islands that visitors rarely see, pockets of poverty remain, encouraging the migration of local people to the very same places that the tourists come from. In Antigua, there are still one-room wooden shacks mounted on cinder blocks — houses with no running water, flush toilets or electricity.

Even some of those who cater to tourists barely make ends meet. "I live by faith," said Enid Browne, a vendor here of T-shirts that bear the message "Smile Man" and the image of Mickey Mouse in dreadlocks. "Some days you don't sell nothing at all. But the hotels only want to hire the young ones, the advanced ones. It's a small place here, but there's not enough work to go around, so

they can take their pick."

At a downtown shop just up the street from Heritage Quay, the proprietor was asked how tourism had changed Antigua in his lifetime. As tourists streamed by his open door, he reflected for a moment, then reached back to his days as a schoolboy under British rule and recited a stanza from "The Deserted Village," a poem by Oliver Goldsmith:

*Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates and men decay
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade
A breath can make them, as a breath has made
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.*

Isn't my No. 1

The World Pocketing The Wages Of War

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

THERE'S nothing new about mercenary armies. The tradition goes back through the Hessians at Valley Forge and the condottieri who overthrew Italian city-states and even to the time of Achilles, who sulked in his tent because he thought Agamemnon was unfairly dividing the spoils of the Trojan war.

These days Kisangani, in central Zaire, is the proving ground for how much mercenary soldiers can pull off. Isolated from the Zairian capital, Kinshasa, by hundreds of miles of jungle, the city is the target of a rebel offensive that began on the Rwandan border. It is also the headquarters for Government forces planning a counterattack, and they are getting considerable help there from mercenaries.

Soldiers from Serbia and the Ukraine are among them. And unconfirmed reports say soldiers from France, Belgium, South Africa, Britain, Croatia and other countries may also be trying to teach the Zairian Army and allied Rwandan Hutu militias how to fight — or preparing to do the fighting for them.

The world always seems to have a fresh pool of mercenaries, depending on which veterans have lately been dumped on the market with lethal skills. Just as American soldiers took the place of French ones in Vietnam in the 1960's, American mercenaries followed French ones onto the world stage, creating, among other things, a market for *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, an advertising forum for the breed. Military experts say there is now a lot of former Soviet-bloc talent for rent.

Effective

But the very model of a modern band of mercenaries isn't European. It's a South African concern, Executive Outcomes, with offices in Pretoria and London, whose glossy brochures announce such services as "armored warfare" and "sniper training." It is composed largely of white officers and black foot soldiers who fought in elite units of the South African Army during its incursion into Angola, South Africa's Vietnam, in the 1980's.

Its two best-known operations were its work for Angola's Government from late 1993 to mid-1996 and for the Government of Sierra Leone from March 1995 until last month. Originally called in to guard riverside diamond-mining areas in both countries, it expanded its duties — nominally to train soldiers, but in fact its men led troops and flew combat missions against rebels and outlaws. Executive Outcomes says it was paid in cash, but in both cases it is widely rumored to have received mining concessions as security.

The company's combat effectiveness in Angola is credited with forcing the rebel organization of Jonas Savimbi to stop fighting and negotiate for a place in the Government. In Sierra Leone, it is acknowledged to have pacified swaths of the country long enough for elections to be held. Its work is often held up — and not only by its salesmen — as a contrast to multinational flops in Somalia, Chad, Liberia and Angola sponsored by the United Nations or the Organization of African Unity.

Executive Outcomes says it has no operations in Zaire. "We have no contract there and we have never been in Zaire," said Eben Barlow, chairman of the firm's holding company.

Mercenary work doesn't come cheap, whoever does it. Kharene Pech, a South African-based journalist who has written extensively about Executive Outcomes, said its own costs to support roughly 500 men fighting in Sierra Leone were over \$1.5 million a month, and its bill to the Government probably more than twice that.

Infantrymen are paid around \$2,000 a month, while specialists like pilots earn \$5,000 and up. That's triple what they'd earn if they could stay in South Africa's



Africa offers opportunities to mercenaries. Above, a Soviet helicopter used in Sierra Leone in 1995 by Executive Outcomes, a South African company of hired guns.

rapidly shrinking military. Ms. Pech said she'd heard recent salary offers in Zaire were slightly higher.

A valued and expensive service is air support. In Angola and Sierra Leone, according to *World Airnews* magazine, Executive Outcomes flew two used Boeing 727's as supply planes, bought for \$550,000 each from American Airlines. It also regularly flew Soviet Mi-17 armed transport helicopters, Mi-24 Hind gunships, MiG-23 jet fighter-bombers and a squadron of Swiss Pilatus training planes converted to fire air-to-ground rockets. According to some estimates, helicopters cost \$5,000 an hour just fly and maintain. Jets cost far more.

Zaire is an impoverished country, though it does have large areas of mineral wealth. And its President, Mobutu Sese Seko, can find ways to pay for what he wants. He has stolen millions from the treasury, enabling him to recuperate from prostate-cancer surgery in splendid surroundings on the French Riviera. He can presumably afford to spend heavily on mercenaries, but whether this will keep him in power is another question.

Some reports say Laurent Kabila, the leader of the rebellion, has 24,000 men in the field, including the Banyamulenge — ethnic Tutsis who rebelled after bullying by Hutu refugees and Zairian soldiers — regular troops from Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi (no friends of Mr. Mobutu) and a hodgepodge of other fighters. The armies of Rwanda and Uganda, military experts say, are among the region's more effective.

Embarrassing

While the mercenaries have some air power, most fighting is likely to be done on the ground, given the thick forests — and ground combat is not Zaire's strong suit.

"I've talked to South Africans who fought alongside the Zairian Army in the past, and 'dismissive' is too light a term for the way they talk about them," said Richard Cornwell, a Pretoria expert on mercenary wars. "They actually found guys sabotaging their own armored personnel carriers so they wouldn't have to go into battle."

As mercenary armies play a larger role in African politics, debate about the morality of using them has grown. In South Africa, the post-apartheid Government finds Executive Outcomes embarrassing, and is preparing legislation to outlaw mercenary recruitment here.

Others — and not just Mr. Barlow of Executive Outcomes — argue that mercenaries are a palatable evil given the decay and civil war that some African countries have fallen into, along with the ineffectiveness of the



Have submachine gun, will travel: a firing-range scene at a 1991 Soldier of Fortune convention in Las Vegas.

United Nations and the refusal of the United States and Europe to do anything.

Journalists covering the fighting in Sierra Leone say Executive Outcomes mercenaries sometimes machine-gunned civilians from its helicopters while pursuing rebels. And the company is rumored to be hanging onto diamond concessions that will pay it far more than it contracted for. But local chiefs still asked the President to keep the mercenaries on after their contract ran out, because life without them was worse: both rebels and renegade Government soldiers had preyed on civilians.

Mercenary armies, the argument goes, don't recruit children. They don't have to loot in order to eat. They

don't have the local hatreds that underpin genocide.

Also, because mercenaries are so expensive, it forces the tyrants who hire them to sharpen their thinking: Perhaps this province isn't worth fighting for. Perhaps peace would cost less.

The countervailing argument is that mercenaries are simply the proof that whoever has the gold makes the rules. "The lesson for dictators is that you can mismanage a country and then call in the Ghostbusters to sort it out for you," said Mark Malan, a former South African soldier who is now a private defense researcher here. "If they prop up a corrupt regime in a failed state, so what? What long-term solution is that?"

Are Canadians Yankees, Too?

Cuba's Bridge to the United States

By ANTHONY DePALMA

GUESTS at Havana's old Hotel Nacional who watch television can now choose between grainy black-and-white films extolling the glory of the 1959 Communist Revolution or feature films on HBO like the cold war thriller "The Hunt for Red October."

The hotel's new telephone service enables quick computer links with New York via AT&T, and hotel guests can get a warm can of Coca-Cola from their mini-bars.

Nearly 40 years since the United States placed an economic embargo on Cuba to stifle its economy and squeeze Fidel Castro from power, Mr. Castro still struts around Havana in designer leather boots. American goods, along with the Yankee dollar, can be easily found all over, even though there are few Americans to be seen.

What's going on? Cuba has managed to build bridges to the United States without dealing with the Federal Government directly. It buys regularly from the subsidiaries of American companies operating in countries like Mexico, where Cuba's Coca-Cola comes from. But one of Cuba's most valuable connections to the mainland and an increasingly eager business partner has been Canada, America's closest ally and biggest trade partner.

To the Cubans, Canadians are just like Americans — they're big, they act rich and they speak English. But while the United States has tried to isolate Cuba since the Communists took over in 1959, Canada has tried to engage the country both economically and diplomatically, much to Washington's annoyance.

With last year's passage of the Helms-Burton law, which imposes sanctions on companies from Canada and other coun-

tries doing business in Cuba, United States foreign policy has clashed openly with the trade policies of some of its strongest allies. Several European countries have challenged the Helms-Burton law in a complaint before the World Trade Organization. But for the moment the challenge has been postponed, leaving Canada alone in its defiant response to the law. Ottawa already has passed a law prohibiting Canadian companies from complying with the reporting provisions of Helms-Burton or paying any fines.

Washington itself shifted ground a bit on Cuba last week. The Clinton Administration said that 10 American news organizations would be permitted to circumvent the economic embargo and open bureaus in Cuba, spending dollars on rent, electricity and other goods.

Still, while Washington has spent 40 years scheming against Cuba, Canada has spent that time making deals. Ottawa, a far less rigid cold warrior than Washington, never broke off diplomatic relations. Its companies have poured over half a billion dollars into nickel mines, luxury hotels and other businesses, often involving property once owned by Americans. Two-way trade between the two countries has doubled in the last four years and now exceeds \$400 million a year. Although Spain, Italy and other European nations also trade with Cuba, its most important links are to North America

through Canada and Mexico. So great is the Canadians' business interest in the island that callers to Cuba's consulate in Toronto get to pick from eight phone options including "press four if you want to open a bank account or start a business in Cuba" and "press five if you want to get married in Cuba." The Cuba Tourist Board has erected more than 125 billboards in Toronto, and many more in Ottawa, Vancouver and other cities, promising cold-weary Canadians "a warmth you'll remember." A round-trip ticket from Ottawa to Varadero can cost as little as \$161.

Raymond Chrétien, Canada's Ambassador to the United States, acknowledges that Ottawa's independent position bothers Washington. "We know who our friends are," Mr. Chrétien said just before last November's elections in the United States, "but we also want to be able to go to the beaches of Cuba." Last year, more than 150,000 Canadians vacationed in Cuba.

Still, Canada seems loath to push its Cuba policy too far, for fear of alienating Washington. Trade with Cuba is a nice plum, but it totals in a year what Canada exchanges with the United States in a day.

Cuba's abysmal record on human rights and the persistent poverty of most Cubans despite the island's recent embrace of capitalism also make it difficult for Ottawa to



Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy of Canada at Cuba's Varadero beach last month.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, featuring the words "ke Oil" and "Dow Bra" on a textured background.

ECONOMY

Like Oil and Water: A Tale of Two Economists

Same school, similar politics, but teachings are miles apart.

By LOUIS UCITELLE

THEY have met only once since Paul Krugman returned last summer to the prestigious economics department at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It was a brief, accidental encounter among the file cabinets and secretaries' desks near Lester Thurow's office.

The small talk left so much unsaid. For the two men — from offices one floor apart that look out on the Charles River — are not so much colleagues as high-profile combatants in a struggle to explain the very nature of the national economy. With all the authority of their profession, they have gone public with strikingly different explanations of an economic phenomenon bedeviling not only the experts, but everyone else, too.

What Mr. Thurow and Mr. Krugman have done is translate into vivid metaphors, riffs of sarcasm and doomsday prose the dry, technical debate of their colleagues at a time when many Americans have taken sides, telling pollsters that they think competition from the rest of the world is the big cause of their income troubles. For Mr. Krugman, representing the majority of economists, that view is wrong. The big culprit, he argues, is new technology right here at home, requiring so many well-paid, college-trained workers, and so few of the less skilled. But for Mr. Thurow and other challengers of this view, the rapidly evolving global economy is indeed mostly to blame, with its hundreds of millions of low-wage workers sending what they produce to the United States and pulling down the pay of average Americans.

Mr. Krugman, 43, and Mr. Thurow, 58, are not alone in this debate, of course. Politicians, pundits, historians, sociologists and Wall Street analysts have jumped in. The debate pops up all the time, in articles and books and on talk shows. Policy prescriptions fill the air: regulate trade, restrict immigration, levy higher taxes on the rich to subsidize the poor and improve educational standards in an attempt — perhaps vain

— to make everyone highly skilled and well paid.

Pat Buchanan, who sought the Republican Presidential nomination last year, exploited the issue. Bob Dole tried to make wage troubles a campaign theme, and even President Clinton, while just issuing a report suggesting that the rising income gap may be reversing, has nonetheless singled out this inequality as the current economic problem. But Mr. Krugman, so often described as a shoo-in for a future Nobel Prize, and Mr. Thurow, who became an M.I.T. economics professor while Mr. Krugman was still a teen-ager in well-to-do Merrick, L.I., have emerged as the loudest and most articulate public voices of the profession that, above others, should have answers.

As they go at it, never face-to-face — always in writing and public speaking, sometimes from the well of the same M.I.T. lecture amphitheater, although on separate days — they offer very different versions of the economy, as if they were cardiologists differing over heart disease, with one citing stress as the primary cause and the other a fat-rich diet.

"The fact this debate exists means no one knows who is right," said Robert Heilbroner, an economics historian who has written books with Mr. Thurow. "The economics profession seems to have a split personality, with the Lester Thurows trying to see a larger picture, and the Paul Krugmans in the business of trying to measure hard-and-fast cause and effect."

The jockeying for the upper hand in this debate sometimes becomes personal. While serving as the defender of the mainstream viewpoint among economists, Mr. Krugman cultivates a firebrand image. He refers to "startlingly crude and uninformed" views of those he criticizes, often by name — Robert B. Reich, the former Labor Secretary, is a favorite target — or to experts who "offer a logic no more confused than usual." He included Mr. Thurow in that last epithet. And so when Mr. Thurow was told last summer that Mr. Krugman was returning to M.I.T., after two years at Stanford University, he requested that Mr. Krugman refrain from disparaging his M.I.T. colleagues — a request that Mr. Krugman has honored so far. "He is too personal," Mr. Thurow said. "He makes it hard to have a debate."

Mr. Thurow, on the other hand, offers broad declarations that go far beyond the equations, diagrams and mathematical models that are, in Mr. Krugman's view, the essence of respectable economics. Mr. Thurow, for example, offers sweeping statements about the impact of the global economy on Americans. "Those with third-world skills will earn third-world wages," he declares, and "anything can be made anywhere on the face of the earth and sold everywhere else on the face of the earth."

For Mr. Krugman, who declined to be photographed with Mr. Thurow, such statements are more seat-of-the-pants judgments than testable economic logic. They are, he wrote recently, expressions in a war "between the essentially literary sensibility that we expect of a card-carrying intellectual and the scientific-mathematical outlook that is arguably the true glory of our civilization."

Such differences enliven the buzz among their colleagues at M.I.T. "Paul's style is still that of the enfant terrible, while Lester speaks more like someone on the mountaintop telling you how it is," said Richard L. Schmalensee, the deputy dean

of M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Management. Still, there is common ground. Both men see themselves as liberals, fighting not over ideology but over what constitutes good economics. They favor similar policies — strengthening unions to give labor more bargaining power, pushing education to improve Americans' workplace skills and income redistribution via Government policy to reduce inequality. They once even taught a basic economics course together at M.I.T., although they lectured on alternate days. (Mr. Thurow was more fun for the students, but Mr. Krugman covered the curriculum, Mr. Krugman said.)



Lester Thurow



Paul Krugman

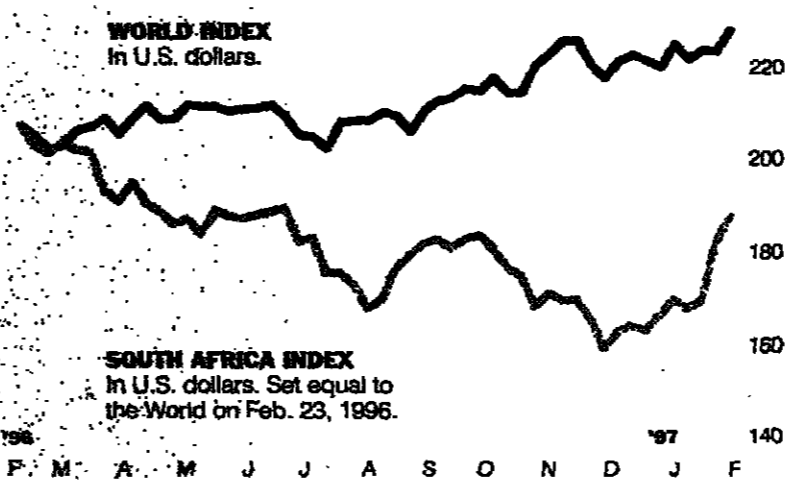
Both acknowledge that they shifted their attention from academia to the public arena after being shut out of top slots as advisers in Democratic administrations — Mr. Thurow after Jimmy Carter was elected President and Mr. Krugman in the early Clinton days.

"My epiphany, came at that famous economic summit in Little Rock in 1992," Mr. Krugman said. "A lot of stuff said there was clearly silly. I had been aware that pop economics writers had a much bigger audience than good economists. But I did not take that seriously because I thought that anyone who really mattered would know the difference. That turned out not to be the case."

Mr. Thurow and Mr. Krugman also share an uncertainty, even a respect very much, called me and said I had written the most depressing book he had ever read," Mr. Thurow said. "I was surprised. I thought I had laid out solutions. But maybe they stick in my mind and not in the reader's."

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns: PERFORMANCE, IN U.S. DOLLARS, IN LOCAL CURR., Country, Index, % Chg., Rank, YTD, YTD Dividend, Yield, Index, % Chg., YTD



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuaries World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Table with columns: COMPOSITE INDICES, Europe, Pacific Basin, Europe/Pacific, World

CURRENCIES

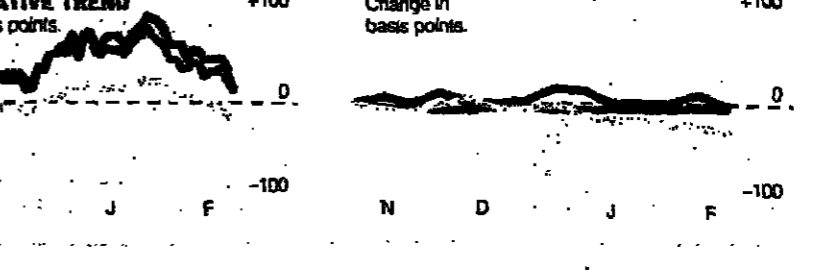
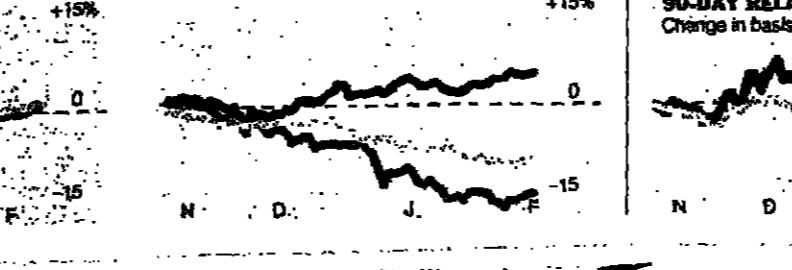
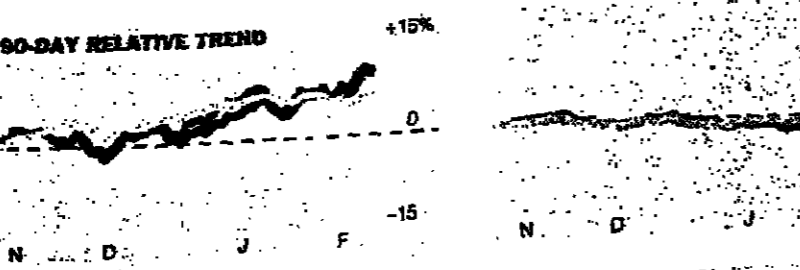
Table with columns: Exchange rates, Friday, Last Friday, Week % Chg., Year Ago

Feb. 10-14: Dow Breaks Through 7,000; Bond Market Rallies, Too

Table with columns: PRICES, DOMESTIC EQUITIES, Broad market, S & P 500 index, Blue chips, Dow 50 Industrials, Small capitalization, Russell 2000 index

Table with columns: AROUND THE WORLD, European stocks, F.T.-Actuaries Europe, Asian stocks, F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin, Gold, New York cash price

Table with columns: YIELDS, BONDS, Long bonds, 30-year Treasuries, Notes, 2-year Treasuries, Municipal, Bond Buyer Index, OTHER INVESTMENTS, Money market funds, Bank C.D.'s, 1-year small savers, Stocks, S & P 500 dividend yield



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datastream, Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

Foreign Affairs
THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Europe's Wild Ride

ROME
If you thought 1989 was an exciting year in Europe, with the Berlin wall crashing down and Communism being swept aside, then you won't want to miss 1997. Because the two major balancing institutions in Europe, NATO and the European Union, are both going to be "adjusted" in 1997, and it's going to make for a wild and crazy Eurocoaster. The Clinton Administration isn't worried. It's assuming that these two major balances in Europe can be simultaneously "adjusted" and create a new, even more stable equilibrium.

Just when some introspection is in order.

Don't bet on it.
Here's why: By the end of this year E.U. members are supposed to commit to a common currency, the Euro, that will make their integration much deeper. But this deal isn't cooked. The problem is the Germans are not keen about letting southern Europe — Italy, Spain, Portugal — into the common currency right away because the Germans, who are obsessed with having a hard, stable currency, don't trust southern Europeans to hold the fiscal and monetary controls needed to maintain a strong Euro.

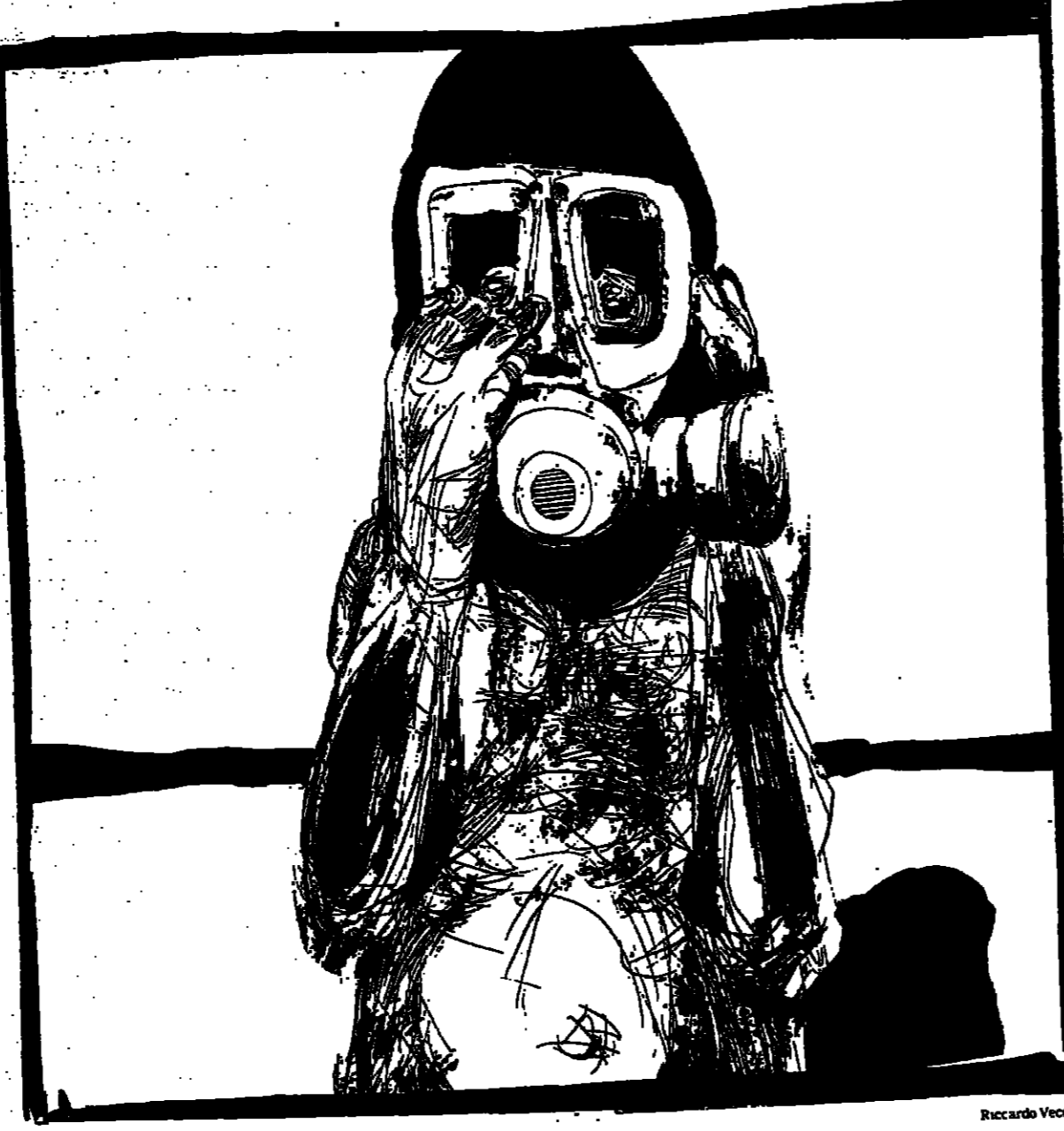
For Germany, southern Europe is still a region inhabited by Bedouins. You trade with Bedouins. But you don't share a currency with them. Italians were stunned when Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper wrote last month that Italians don't understand the importance financial markets attach to rules: "Those who respect rules are often considered stupid in Italy. Why should they go by the rules when the sly push ahead in line, throw rubbish on the street and pass cars on the highway on the right?"

Sounds like a great partnership. This struggle over a common Euro currency coincides with the effort to expand NATO to Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic. U.S. diplomats are confident they can move NATO's frontier closer to Russia, while assuring Russia that it isn't being threatened or frozen out of the new Europe. The U.S. will do this by forging a NATO-Russia charter that perfectly balances everyone's interests. Unfortunately, this delicate new balance will have to be negotiated while there is a near total power vacuum at the top in Russia. Good luck. This project also assumes that the countries left out of the new NATO — Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the Baltic states — will sit quietly, and not become a gray area of intense competition between Russia and NATO. Sure.

Here's the truth: Yugoslavia aside, Europe has actually been quite stable since 1989. We don't need all this heroic geo-engineering of organizations now.
The only way there will be an even more stable, long-term, security structure in Europe is if democratic reform in Russia moves forward, not if NATO's front line moves forward. And the only way the E.U. will thrive in the global economy is not if its members have a common currency, but if they deregulate their economies and become more competitive and entrepreneurial. It is much more important that French storekeepers open on Sunday than that they have a common Euro currency. It is much more important that a young Helmut Gates in a garage in Germany be able to raise \$50 million overnight for his invention rather than that the pittance he can now raise is denominated in a common Euro currency. Europe's priority now should be internal reform, not organizational reform.

If the leaders don't know this, the people do. Luigi Vittorio Ferraris, a professor at the Free University in Rome and former Italian Ambassador to Germany, remarked to me: "You can't build a new Europe without Europeans, and my students are very much less European than they were 10 years ago. The enthusiasm for Europe is not there. Before 1989, E.U. and NATO meant security. They meant modernization. They meant welfare. Now, the fear is gone; the threats are all internal. But we are being asked to put on a new European straitjacket, just when we feel less European."

I hope it all works out: a new NATO, a new E.U., a new currency, all in 1997. But I fear this will involve too many moving parts. I suspect we'll wish we had let well enough alone. There is a real danger that we could not only lose the balance that came together in Europe in 1989-91 — a balance that has been relatively easy to maintain and has provided a stable environment for internal reform — but we could also lose the energy and focus to deal with the real problems, which are mostly inside these states, not between them.



Ricardo Vecchio

Our Best Defense

By James A. Baker 3d

The Chemical Weapons Convention — an international treaty that commits member nations to destroy their chemical weapons and to forswear future production, acquisition or use of them — is before the Senate for approval. Despite the fact that the treaty was negotiated under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush, a number of Republicans have expressed reservations about it. I respect their motives, but their concerns are misplaced.

For instance, some have argued that we shouldn't commit to the treaty because rogue states like Libya, Iraq and North Korea, which have not signed it, will still be able to continue their efforts to acquire

treaty would actually cost the American chemical industry hundreds of millions of dollars in sales by making United States exporters subject to trade restrictions by convention members. Our joining the convention could help American business — which is why the chemical industry supports ratification.

Other critics assert that the treaty would somehow infringe on our national sovereignty — in particular, the Fourth Amendment ban on unreasonable search and seizure. In fact, it explicitly permits members to abide by their constitutional requirements when providing access to international inspectors. Under the treaty, involuntary inspection of American manufacturing and storage sites would still require legally acquired search warrants. The idea that ratifying the treaty would repeal part of our Bill of Rights is simply wrong.

But by far the most important argument against the treaty is that ratification would somehow undermine our national security.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Let me be blunt: The idea that Ronald Reagan and George Bush would negotiate a treaty detrimental to this nation's security is grotesque.

The United States does not need chemical weapons as a deterrent. Any nation or group contemplating a chemical attack against us must reckon with our overwhelming conventional force and vast nuclear arsenal. Each is more than sufficient to deter a chemical attack.
Chemical weapons are relatively easy to develop and cheap to manufacture, so it is no coincidence that the rogue nations now seeking to build chemical arsenals are economically impoverished and technologically backward. Unlike Iraq or Libya, we don't need such weapons to project our influence. In fact, we are already committed — under a law signed in 1985 by President Reagan — to destroy our existing chemical weapons stockpile by 2004. We will do this whether or not we ratify the treaty.

What we need is a way to limit the risk that American troops or civilians may someday face a chemical weapons attack. The convention can help do precisely this by controlling the flow of illicit trade materials and by making it easier to marshal international support for the political, diplomatic and economic isolation of countries that refuse to ratify it.

If we fail to ratify the convention, we will not only forgo any influence in the continuing effort against chemical weapons, we will also risk postponing indefinitely any progress on an international ban on the equally dire threat of biological weapons. More generally, we will imperil our leadership in the entire area of non-

proliferation, perhaps the most vital security issue of the post-cold-war era.

Today we face a monumental choice requiring a bipartisan consensus, just as we did in ratifying the North American Free Trade Act in 1993. Failure to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention would send a message of American retreat from engagement in the world. For this reason — and because our national interest is better served by joining the convention than by lining up with pariah states outside it — I support the treaty and urge my fellow Republicans to do the same.

Republican criticism of the chemical weapons treaty is off base.

chemical weapons. This is obviously true. But the convention, which has been endorsed by 88 countries and will go into effect in April whether or not we have ratified it, will make it more difficult for these states to do so by prohibiting the sale of materials to nonmembers that can be used to make chemical weapons.

In an ideal world, rogue states and terrorist groups would simply give up the use of chemical weapons. But ours is not an ideal world. The Chemical Weapons Convention recognizes that, and so should its opponents. It makes no sense to argue that because a few pariah states refuse to join the convention the United States should line up with them rather than with the rest of the world.
Others have argued that if we ratify the treaty, we will not be able to verify that all members will abide by it. No international agreement, of course, is perfectly verifiable — just as no domestic law is perfectly enforceable. But the treaty sets up a verification system, including international inspections on short notice, that will be far more effective than what we possess today. Moreover, the treaty would strengthen information-sharing among member states. It would increase, not diminish, our understanding of chemical weapons threats.

Some opponents of the treaty claim that it would create yet another costly international bureaucracy and place an onerous regulatory burden on American business. Both assertions are overstated. Our share for administering the treaty would be about \$25 million a year, a truly modest amount in a Federal budget of about \$1.7 trillion. Only about 140 companies would have significant reporting requirements, while some 2,000 others would be asked to fill out a short form.

Moreover, failure to ratify the treaty would actually cost the American chemical industry hundreds of millions of dollars in sales by making United States exporters subject to trade restrictions by convention members. Our joining the convention could help American business — which is why the chemical industry supports ratification.

Note to Readers
The Op-Ed page welcomes unsolicited manuscripts. Because of the volume of submissions, however, we regret that we cannot acknowledge an article or return it. If manuscripts are accepted for publication, authors will be notified within two weeks.

Liberties MAUREEN DOWD Women's Work

WASHINGTON
The two great women of Georgetown lived through history that others could only read about. They were raised to be the opposite of what they became. For years, they were happily in the shadow of famous men. Then, widowed, both struggled to remake themselves as serious players in arenas where women were rare.
Pamela Digby Churchill Hayward Harriman and Katharine Graham have been dominating attention in the capital.

Mourners called Mrs. Harriman's elaborate funeral at the National Cathedral on Thursday "her last cocktail party," perfectly calculated and coolly orchestrated for the cameras, a three-layer cake, where the elite of the elite jockeyed for good seats.
Mrs. Graham has been celebrated in a happier way, with raves and fetes for her memoir, in which she describes the awful story of losing her husband twice, first to a mistress and then to suicide, and the bracing story of how she transformed herself from a doormat into a publisher whose brave decisions on the Pentagon Papers and Watergate changed the character of American journalism.

Superficially, the lives of these women, who were friendly but not intimate, followed similar arcs. But Pamela and Kay were as different as Scarlett and Melanie, one full of guile, the other gulleible, one self-centered and showy, the other shy and modest, one promoting herself as a great sex symbol, the other painfully insecure.

Mrs. Graham was born to the arena, while Mrs. Harriman was always struggling to get into it. While Kay was still an ungainly, unsophisticated housewife, Pamela was already the original Cosmo Girl, tailoring herself to trap dukes, princes and millionaires, changing religions like clothes to suit the hunt, treating wives as minor obstacles. She was praised by one lover, Elie de Rothschild, as his "European geisha," and by one husband, Leland Hayward, as "the greatest courtesan of the century."
Mrs. Harriman's life was like a series of glamorous stage sets. She would build each one meticulously, then strike it after it had had its use. In her final role she did gain some respect as Ambassador to France. Mrs. Graham spent 30 years building one great institution, The Washington Post.

Mrs. Harriman made it the way women used to make it — by illustrating romance and linking herself to power.

ful men, extracting elements of their personas to make them her own. (She assumed Winston Churchill's deep, rolling cadences and talk of "Nabrrrr-zis.") Mrs. Graham inherited a newspaper but then remade it and herself the way women in the modern age do, by grit, intelligence and hard work.
Mrs. Harriman was angry about biographies by Christopher Ogden and Sally Bedell Smith that dwelled on the playgirl years. Unlike Mrs. Graham, who was startlingly honest in her book, Mrs. Harriman wanted her biographers to explain how she and her father-in-law Winston Churchill won the war, and how she revived the

Two fabulous transformations.

Democratic Party in the 80's. "Pamela wanted to be adored, and later respected," said Mr. Ogden. "Kay Graham wanted to be understood."
Mrs. Harriman will never be seen as a great figure in the world of diplomacy. But she will be seen as a great figure in the world of salons — present at virtually every important juncture in the history of her time.

If you read about Mrs. Harriman to learn the secret of her allure, you will be disappointed. The vixen was a nanny. It must have been hard to fetch so many slippers, mix so many martinis, puff so many pillows, tilt so many umbrellas to guard her men from the sun, and look so adoring, no matter how tedious the man.

Mrs. Harriman's work was never done. Lovers disappointed her. Stepchildren loathed her. Relatives sued her. There lurked always, for her, the fear that she was an object of fascination, but also ridicule.

At her funeral, there was more rolling of eyes than drying of eyes, when the President called her legacy "the growing promise of a Europe undivided," and repeated Jacques Chirac's description of her as the best ambassador to France since Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson.

But those who are reading Mrs. Graham's book and thinking about her life are not rolling their eyes. They are admiring a woman who did not owe her importance to seduction. There was more than one way for a woman to rule in Georgetown.

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BUSINESS

in brief

January money supply up 3.4%

The nation's money supply rose last month by a relatively sharp 3.4 percent, according to data released yesterday by the Bank of Israel.

Elta wins IDF radar tender

The IDF will receive a new radar for the detection of close-range ground and air threats devised by Israel Aircraft Industries' Elta subsidiary, executives said yesterday.

KFC to open restaurant in Gaza

Gaza will soon get its first American fast-food outlet. A Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant will open next month near the beach in Gaza City.

COMPANY RESULTS

Tadiran net increases 64%

Tadiran Telecommunications, the manufacturer of advanced telecommunications equipment and systems worldwide, reported a 64 percent growth in net income last year to \$41.4 million from \$25.2m. in 1995.

Adanim net up 18%

Adanim Mortgage Bank reported an 18.2% growth in net earnings last year to NIS 7.31m. from NIS 6.18m. in the same period in 1995.

Medical services company offers phone-TV contact between doctor, patient

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Shahal emergency medicine company has unveiled the country's first home application of the integrated services digital network (ISDN) — a TV phone

that lets subscribers and Shahal center doctors see each other and speed diagnosis, overcoming heart patients' reluctance to seek help for every little pain.

The TV phone, manufactured by British Telecom, links up with Bezeq's ISDN lines to provide what is apparently the first such medical application anywhere in the world.

Images on the 12.7-centimeter color screen are very crisp and lifelike, but the service is not cheap: NIS 5,400 for the device plus NIS 480 (a special introductory offer) for the ISDN phone

line. Shahal, which has 40,000 subscribers around the country for its other services, said it does not intend to rent out the phones at present, but only to sell them.

The innovation, which yesterday elicited much interest, was kept carefully under wraps: Shahal staffers themselves were shown the new device only on Friday.

Prof. Arye Roth, a medical adviser for Shahal, noted that heart patients are typically reluctant to seek help when suffering symptoms, believing they will go

away. This makes the average time between suffering heart attack symptoms and going to the hospital about three hours.

The delay significantly increases the risk of death, as medications to dissolve blood clots in a coronary artery are most effective when administered shortly after the attack.

Shahal, which has until now offered a service transmitting electrocardiograms over phone line, has reduced the delay time to an average of only 44 minutes among its subscribers.

The TV phone is expected to shrink this period even more. Patients with the device feel that medical staff are with them in their home rather than far away, and reduces anxiety about getting ill, Shahal officials said.

Discount, gov't in feverish effort to hold offer in time

Postponement might cause delay in Leumi, UMB offers

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The 1996 financial statements of Mercantile Discount Bank and Discount Mortgage Bank will be included in Bank Discount's prospectus, as part of attempts by the bank and government to stand by the original plan to float a 17-percent stake in Israel's third largest bank during the first quarter this year.

A postponement of the issue is likely to cause a delay in the government's sale of Bank Leumi and United Mizrahi Bank's shares, which are currently planned for the second quarter.

MI Holdings general manager Meir Yacobson refused to comment on the issue. The Securities Authority refused to approve Bank

Discount's prospectus last week, delaying the offering, which was due to take place this week. The authority has subjected the approval to the receipt of more information regarding the sum of additional allowances for doubtful debts in the fourth quarter.

During the last few days MI Holdings, Bank Discount, underwriters and the Securities Authority have negotiated ways of pushing forward the issue, which is based on the banks' financial statements for the first nine months of 1996.

According to Securities Authority regulations, the deadline for publishing a prospectus based on third-quarter financial statements is the end of February. Yacobson said several alterna-

tives are being considered, including the inclusion of 1996 financial statements for Mercantile and Discount Mortgage banks.

The additional allowances for doubtful debts are mainly due to the building sector. The publication of the subsidiaries' results are expected to assist investors in deciding whether to take part in the issue.

"We are checking several alternatives, but everything is dependent on the Securities Authority's decision," Yacobson said.

MI Holdings and the Securities Authority initially requested Bank Discount to record the amount of additional provisions in the prospectus, but Bank Discount said it will take them several weeks to calculate the exact figures.

The issue, which is in the framework of the government's privatization plans, is expected to raise a total of NIS 650 million, of which NIS 170m. will be immediate. The bank has been valued for this offering at NIS 3.9 billion.

Meanwhile, MI Holdings intends to allow institutional investors that participated in the pre-sale of Bank Discount's shares last week to change their orders. The pre-sale closed at NIS 171 per unit, about 0.6 percent above the minimum price.

Capital market sources said the recent drop in Bank Discount's shares and reports of large provisions from the building sector have reduced the shares attractiveness.

Tadmor: Gilo hasn't renewed Scitex bid

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Davidi Gilo, Israeli high-tech entrepreneur and CEO of DSP Communications, has not renewed his bid to buy a controlling share of Scitex Corporation Ltd., Scitex Chairman Dov Tadmor said yesterday.

"There has been talk that Gilo intends to make another offer, but we have not received one," Tadmor said in response to reports in Ha'aretz and Globes that claimed Gilo had renewed his hostile takeover bid for the ailing, Herzliya-based developer of digital printing and assorted communications products.

Tadmor said that at last week's board meeting Scitex's directors did not discuss the rumors regarding Gilo's reported plans to offer \$15 - \$17 per share in exchange for a controlling stake in the company.

Tadmor also denied other reports that International Paper has demonstrated an interest in unloading its 13.3% holding in Scitex.

Due to an agreement between the controlling shareholders, International Paper cannot sell its stake in the company without consent from Cial and Discount Investment Corporation.

Last week, Scitex posted 1996 losses of \$178.3m., compared to 1995 losses of \$34.5m.

In March, Gilo made an offer to pay \$20 a share for Scitex. He increased the offer to \$25 a share in April but dropped the bid in May after the company refused to sell.

Following the rebuff, Gilo said that he would "continue to monitor developments at Scitex closely."

So far, Gilo has not made any renewed offers.

Scitex, once considered the glory of Israel's high-tech industry, has been on a steady downward spiral since the end of 1992.

Back then, the company had some \$300m. in cash and its Nasdaq-traded shares hit a high of \$42.

But, as a result of the company's inability to stay ahead of the competition, its profits began to shrink.

The company's passive approach to meeting changes in the marketplace caused further damage.

Despite recovery plans Scitex's profits and profitability continued to deteriorate.

The company's stock, which has been steadily decreasing since December 1992, closed at \$9.50 on Friday.

Less than four weeks ago, the stock was trading at \$12.

Following the November release of the company's third-quarter results, Scitex announced a drastic restructuring program that included plans to fire 17% of the company's 3,700 employees. So far Scitex has cut 8% of its workforce.

Scitex's three divisions — graphic arts, digital video and digital printing — make such products as digital cameras and scanners, color workstations and professional inkjet color printers.

The company recently went through a spate of changes in top management, including the resignation of Patrick Karfaga, who was hired seven months ago as CEO of Scitex America. The company denied reports that other top management would be resigning in the future.



Federal Express cargo service prepares to start flying here

A Federal Express plane lands at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, one of a number of trial flights which the cargo airline has arranged to make before it begins regular service to Israel. The cargo service, which is to begin next month, is to consist of four flights a week.

Union Bank to cut workforce by 9%

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Union Bank's management has announced a voluntary retirement plan which is aimed at shrinking its 1,100-strong workforce by up to 100 employees.

A bank spokesman emphasized that the plan, estimated at NIS 7 million, has nothing to do with the government's intentions to sell an additional 24-percent share of Union Bank to the Eliyahu Group.

The group, which already holds 60% of the bank, is very close to signing the agreement.

The plan is part of Union Bank's attempts to increase efficiency and cut back on surplus workers, mainly veteran employees.

Union Bank has not undergone any major cutbacks since the Shlomo Eliyahu Group acquired control of it from Bank Leumi and the government in 1993.

Management is offering the workers retirement compensation of up to 180 percent of accumulated compensation, in addition to a salary during a three-month period of adaptation.

"The implication of this is that in most cases they will receive retirement compensation equivalent to 200%," management said. Emphasizing that the bank is operating with surplus workers, the spokesman said Union Bank has recently opened new branches without hiring new

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with columns for Currency basket, U.S. dollar, German mark, French franc, Japanese yen, Dutch florin, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Norwegian krona, Danish krone, Finnish mark, Canadian dollar, Australian dollar, S. African rand, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Italian lire, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, ECU, Irish punt, Spanish peseta. Sub-tables: Pataha (foreign currency deposit rates), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, CHECKS AND TRANSFERS, BANKNOTES.

US Congress to consider trade ban with Syria

WASHINGTON (Center) - Two senior House of Representatives members over the weekend introduced a bill to bar US companies from doing business with Syria and Sudan because they are listed by the United States as sponsors of terrorism.

McCollum said. "The bill Mr. Schumer and I are introducing today strips the executive branch of the authority to issue regulations exempting transactions from the prohibition."

Companies to invest billions in countries that we know to be sponsoring terrorism. If we are going to stop terrorist nations, we have to hit them where it hurts - their pocket books," Schumer said.

Comex gold closes higher

By MICHAEL ZWERNER

Comex gold for current delivery closed at \$346.40 per ounce, compared with a close of \$342.50 on Thursday.

The most active March gold contract settled at \$346.40, up \$3.90. The April gold contract settled at \$346.70, up \$3.70 after trading in a range of \$342.70-\$348.60.

The most active March silver contract settled at \$5.252, up 11 cents, after trading in a range of \$5.130-\$5.275, and the May silver contract settled at \$5.307, up 11 cents.

April platinum closed up 2.4 at \$372.00 and March palladium finished down 3.25 at \$136.75. Grain futures at the Chicago Board of Trade (CBT) closed mostly mixed ahead of the long holiday weekend.

Grain markets at the CBT will be closed today for Presidents' Day. Corn opened around steady levels and wheat opened slightly lower.

Both markets later found some support and prices were mostly steady to firmer at mid-session. Shortly after, wheat saw some two-sided trade, while corn held in firmer territory.

At the close, however, both markets pared their gains and settled narrowly mixed. Some sources said wheat found support from ongoing news that Pakistan is expected to tender for a large amount of US wheat.

Sources said the question remains, however, whether Australia will receive any of the Pakistani business or whether the US will garner all of the 450,000 MT wheat tender.

A CBT floor source said, however, that the Pakistani news didn't have that much of an impact on the market.

Also supporting wheat were weather forecasts saying the southern Plains could see some dry conditions, sources noted.

At the close, March wheat futures closed up 1/2 a point at \$3.59-1/2 per bushel and March corn was down 1/2 at \$2.74 per bushel.

Soy complex futures at the Chicago Board of Trade (CBT) closed lower on Friday, amid profit-taking activity ahead of the holiday weekend, sources said.

Soybeans and soy meal were firmer after midday on good fund buying, although the market couldn't hold onto its gains.

Soybeans pared gains and traded mixed late in the session. Losses were extended in soybeans as March closed down 4-1/2 at \$7.51 - near the session low of \$7.60. The session high was put in at \$7.67.

Soy-oil and soy-meal both closed lower in sympathy with soybeans.

While soybeans and soy meal have seen sharply higher prices of late, sources said that profit-taking weighed on prices.

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PAC MED INVESTMENTS



Truckers strike in Spain. Parked trucks line a major highway outside Bilbao, northern Spain, during the tenth day of a truck driver strike throughout Spain over the weekend. The truck drivers are demanding government subsidies for lower fuel prices and early retirement. (AP)

Clinton donors joined Kantor's trade trips, paper

By ROBERT L. JACKSON

WASHINGTON - A study by the Boston Globe of campaign donations showed that six companies that were represented on former US commerce secretary Mickey Kantor's trips to the former Yugoslavia and several Asian countries contributed \$100,000 or more apiece around the time the trips occurred.

As the controversy over campaign donations continued to expand, Kantor said there was no connection between companies giving large donations to the Democratic Party and their selection to join in two overseas trade missions he led last year.

Kantor's trade missions followed larger ones led by his predecessor, the late Ronald Brown, which were sharply criticized by Republican lawmakers and some public watchdog groups for allegedly mixing government business with political fund-raising.

Kantor, who served as commerce secretary for nine months, said political donations were not sought or even hinted at from companies considered for participation on his trips.

"I had nothing to do with the selection of the 25 companies represented on those trips," Kantor said. "I had no idea who contributed and I couldn't care less."

ASEAN bloc seeks to expand EU trade

SINGAPORE (Reuter) - The European Union and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) agreed over the weekend to take a series of steps to boost trade and economic cooperation.

Trade has already quadrupled since 1980 between the 15-member EU - the world's largest trading entity - and the seven-member ASEAN, which aims to create its own free trade area by 2003, encompassing a population larger than Europe's.

"The developments taking place in the two regions give us optimism that there is a great potential for a further strengthening of our economic links," said a declaration at the end of a two-day conference of foreign ministers.

In 1995, the value of ASEAN-EU trade reached \$86 billion, or four times what it was in 1980, when the two sides first signed an agreement to cement ties.

The declaration said the two regions "would initiate cooperation in customs matters" and arrange common industrial norms and standards.

"They would share information on the creation of the Single Market in the European Union and the ASEAN Free Trade Area."

Table with 3 columns: Ticker, Last, Change. Includes sections for MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES and various stock indices.

TASE ROUNDUP Shares up on low CPI report

Mishtanim 259.87 ▲ 2.84% Maof 266.97 ▲ 3.07%

Shares closed sharply higher on increased turnover yesterday, after the release of a lower-than-expected January Consumer Price Index, traders said.

"Investors were reacting to the lower-than-expected CPI and Wall Street's rise," said Daniella Finn, head of sales at Batucha Securities and Investments.

The benchmark Mishtanim index of top 100 shares rose 2.84%, or 7.18 points, to 259.87 on high all-share turnover of NIS 186 million against NIS 123m. on Thursday.

The Maof 25 blue-chip index closed 3.07% higher at 266.97. January's CPI, released on Friday, rose 0.4%, compared with an 0.8% increase in December.

Portugal wants early EMU entry

By RICHARD WADDINGTON

LISBON (Reuter) - Portugal's ruling socialists and their main opposition united over the weekend to send a defiant message to the European Union that it was determined to form part of the single currency if it met the conditions for entry.

This was the clear aim of a symbolic vote in parliament, where the socialists and the center-right Social Democrats supported a motion backing Portugal's bid to join the first countries launching economic and monetary union (EMU) in 1999.

"There is a huge majority [in Portugal] in favor of monetary union," Prime Minister Antonio Guterres said during the debate, whose outcome was never in doubt as the two parties control 85 percent of the 230-seat parliament.

"It is a great national objective to be at the center of the construction of Europe... where our voice can count," said Guterres, whose center-left government has staked its political future on making the cut for monetary union.

The two parties tabled the joint motion in favor of monetary union after politicians in some northern European countries suggested that the so-called "Club Med" countries of southern Europe - Italy, Spain and Portugal - would do better to wait before joining EMU.

German bankers in particular fear that the entry of southern European countries, with no long tradition of financial discipline, could threaten the stability of the Euro, the future European currency.

But Portugal has said that if it passes the economic tests for entry, set out in the European Union's Maastricht treaty, the EMU blueprint, then it will join the single currency.

"The only condition for entry to the Euro must be a country's ability to meet the criteria and the will of its people," said Guterres.

In a newspaper interview earlier, he dismissed fears that the inclusion of the Portuguese escudo in the single currency could weaken the Euro.

He said Portugal had given ample proof of its financial and economic health and an economy accounting for less than one percent of total EU activity was in any case too small to be an unsettling factor.

"Even those who are worried about the strength of the Euro... must recognize that the entry of Portugal into the initial 'hardcore' of monetary union in no way casts doubt on its solidity," Guterres told O Publico newspaper.

Portugal is arguably the best-placed economically of the three southern candidates, and most economic analysts believe that it has a good chance of meeting the terms, which include limits to the budget deficit and inflation.

Entry will be decided on the basis of a country's economic performance in 1997.

Although the Social Democrats are firmly pro-European, the debate marked the first time that they have aligned openly with the government in a parliamentary vote.

The motion expressed "concern and disagreement with public declarations of political leaders from other European Union countries that put in doubt the spirit and letter" of the Maastricht treaty.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES, POLICE, FIRE, FIRST AID, DUTY HOSPITALS, Medical help for tourists in English

February 17, 1997 Fadmor ilo hasn renewed citex bid

KEY MARKETS

WHAT'S ON

CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Rubin Museum in Tel Aviv pays a tribute tonight to Israeli composer Paul Ben Haim on the centenary of his birth.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The Death of Yugoslavia is a new six-part documentary series which will start on the Discovery Channel.



The first episode of 'The Death of Yugoslavia' will appear on the Discovery Channel at 10 p.m.

alism, stabbed his patron in the back and took over absolute power in Serbia, shaking Yugoslavia to the roots.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

★★★1/2 SECRETS AND LIES - The winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1996 Cannes film festival, Mike Leigh's latest movie is an eminently watchable, stylistically unremarkable character-driven melodrama.

TV

JORDAN TV

6:30 News flash 6:51 News in Arabic 6:45 Express Time 7:00 Good Morning, Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Computers and the Internet 8:30 Spoken Arabic 9:20 Without Secrets 9:20 Nature

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Molamize from Moby 15:50 Books 16:30 Dubliah - live TV game

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Shekay and Gavey (pt)

CHANNEL 3

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 4

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 5

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 6

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 7

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 8

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 9

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CHANNEL 10

6:30 News flash 6:51 Hebrew Video Clips 20:00 News

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:30 Panorama 18:00 Amores

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:30 Panorama 18:00 Amores

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:30 Panorama 18:00 Amores

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16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:30 Panorama 18:00 Amores

ITV 3 (33)

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Yasin and Bahaya 17:30 Panorama 18:00 Amores

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, Local broadcast, The Bottle, etc.

17:05 Little University 17:30 Shesh-Tus 18:00 Hugo 18:30 Berenstain Bears

RADIO

VOICE OF MUSIC

6:00 Morning Concert 6:30 Antonio Battiato: Archaic Mess

MOVIES

Jerusalem Cinematheque Mean Streets 5 * North By Northwest 7 * Pandora's Box

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Reveals another sound that goes on and on (11) 10 Concerning young lady, some say, not common (5)

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid and solutions. Includes words like 'STOCKROCK', 'MISTOCK', 'SEEKS EXPERIENCED', 'BLACKJACKER FOR SENIOR', 'MENT POSTIC'.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle grid and solutions. Includes words like 'DIZENGOFF', 'MOTIVE', 'RENAISSANCE', 'WORTHY', 'SURRENDER', 'EFFECTIVE', 'HAPPINESS', 'MOTIVE', 'RENAISSANCE', 'WORTHY', 'SURRENDER', 'EFFECTIVE', 'HAPPINESS'.

General Assistance and Where To Go listings now appear on Page 9.

Shahal: Turner harassed teenager

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Former police inspector-general Ya'acov Turner is considering "taking steps" against former internal security minister Moshe Shahal, who yesterday fingered him as the "senior officer" who, according to *Ma'ariv*, sexually harassed a teenage girl.

Turner denied the allegation, calling it libelous and baseless. *Ma'ariv's* weekend magazine published a story about a former "extremely senior police officer" who for months courted a high-school girl at the ice-cream parlor she worked in. The officer, who would come to the ice cream parlor frequently, made sexual proposals to the girl and promised her a good position in the army when she got drafted.

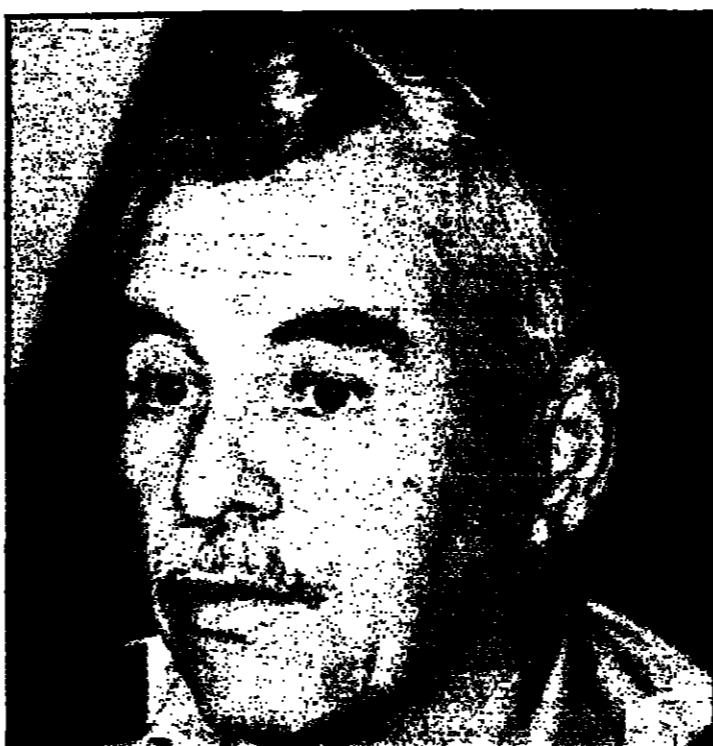
The officer would ask about the girl's sexual interests and asked her if she was a virgin, the story said. It also says the girl confirmed these details and said the officer had asked to meet her in a hotel.

The story was one of several exposes involving improper conduct by public figures by reporter Shaul Peretz, which *Yediot Aharanot* refused to publish from 1991 to 1996. Peretz quit *Yediot* and moved to *Ma'ariv*, which published details of these incidents, involving, among others, Jerusalem Mayor



Moshe Shahal

(Efraim Kishlak)



Ya'acov Turner

(Isaac Hiran)

Ehud Olmert, Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri, former religious affairs minister Avner Shaki, former transport minister Yisrael Kessar, former attorney-general Yosef Harish and others. Shahal first told Haifa Radio yesterday morning that Turner was the officer involved with the young girl, and that this story was brought to his attention in January 1993. Shahal said *Globes* editor Adam Baruch told him he was going to publish the story

and wanted Shahal's reaction. Shahal said he advised then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and foreign minister Shimon Peres of the affair, and they decided not to do anything until the story was published, but in the end it did not appear. Soon after that, Turner was accused of considering a political post while he was still in uniform - an affair that eventually led to Turner resigning as inspector-general - and Shahal never

followed up on the earlier incident.

"In retrospect this was my mistake. I should have brought it immediately to the attention of the attorney-general and police investigations unit. I kept the secret for three and a half years. When I was asked [by Haifa Radio] who the officer was, I had to answer directly, otherwise all senior police officers would be suspected of eating ice cream all the time," Shahal said.

Turner said the story was totally baseless and accused Shahal of trying to "pin things on me. It's hard for him to accept the fact that he failed in the High Court of Justice business and keeps trying to push all kinds of stories my way."

Turner, who also gave several interviews yesterday, said he was the one who told Shahal of the story, when he heard about it. He said he stops for ice cream at that ice-cream parlor once or twice a week as he has been doing for 10 years, but never touched the girl or saw her without other people present.

According to Channel 2, the girl herself denied having anything to do with Turner, who was "merely a friendly person," and said the story was libel. She said she had a boyfriend at the time and used Turner's name in conversations with him to tease him.

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VALID 10/1/97-31/3/97

WEATHER

Jerusalem 10-19
Tel Aviv 10-22
Haifa 10-24
Tiberias 10-25
Ashdod 6-25
Golan 7-19
Beersheva 8-26
Dead Sea 12-24
Eilat 17-27

Forecast: Clear.

US airman dies at Negev air base

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

A US airman was killed when he fell from a third-story window at the Negev air force base in the Negev over the weekend. Witnesses said he was apparently drunk.

The airman, St. Sgt. John Pfeister, stationed at a US Air Force base in Italy, was at Negev to service US aircraft conducting exercises in the Negev.

Richard Scorsa, spokesman for the US Embassy in Tel Aviv, confirmed that Pfeister died when he fell out of a third-story window. He said the incident was under investigation.

Witnesses said Pfeister, whose unit services jets flying over Bosnia, was apparently drunk and went to vomit out of a window. They said he bent out of the window and fell out, slamming into the concrete below.

Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the seven of spades, the queen of hearts, the jack of diamonds and the queen of clubs.

Principal's remark makes him 'unfit to serve'

By BATSHEVA TSUR

The Arab principal of the Jewish-Arab school in Neveh Shalom is not fit to serve as an educator, given remarks he made in an obituary he wrote after the February 4 helicopter collision in the North, Education Ministry Director-General Ben-Zion Dell said yesterday.

At the same time, Dell ruled that a religious teacher at the state (secular) junior high school in Mevasseret Zion, who was also charged with making offensive remarks at the time, should

have a disciplinary note inserted in her file.

Neveh Shalom principal Anwar Daoud was called to a hearing by a committee that is headed by Dell, following an obituary he wrote for Tom Kita'in, his former pupil, who was killed in the crash. In the obit, published in a local paper, Daoud described Kita'in as "the only Jewish soldier whom I agreed to take in my car when he was in uniform."

Daoud told the committee that his remarks were in keeping with his beliefs, the ministry

spokesman said. Dell and the other committee members therefore ruled that "by denying the right of the IDF to exist and by denigrating its soldiers and their legitimacy, [Daoud] disqualified himself from serving as an educator in the Israeli state school system."

Dell called the attention of the school, which is privately run, to this ruling. He also called on the school's management "to publish their regrets and apologies" over the remarks, and to report back to him.

In the case of the Mevasseret

teacher, Atara Simkovitz, the committee accepted her version of the incident.

Pupils in Simkovitz's class had told the principal that she told them the soldiers would not have been killed had they observed the commandments. However, Simkovitz denied saying this, adding that such remarks were not in keeping with her views or the spirit of her work.

While deciding not to take disciplinary action against her, Dell said that a remark would be inserted in Simkovitz's file say-

ing that "a teacher has to be extremely careful about remarks so that they cannot be misinterpreted."

Dell also called on the principal of the school to hold a teachers' meeting at which Simkovitz could explain herself and thus reduce the tension at the school.

Elbit, Czech firm to expand joint venture

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Israel's Elbit Systems and the Czech aircraft manufacturers Aero Vodochody are planning to expand a joint venture for the supply of advanced training planes to Thailand, and are negotiating the sale of their product in other Far Eastern countries, South America and Africa.

So far, the Thai air force has received 38 of the L-39 training planes, which are constructed in the Czech plant and fitted with modern avionics equipment by Elbit, a spokesman for the Haifa-

based advanced technology center said. The client is provided with a turn-key product whose avionics equipment can also prepare the pilot for more advanced aircraft.

The project in Thailand, started some three years ago, is now worth over \$200 million. Another order is close to completion and the Thais are expected to increase their acquisitions. The planes have already chalked up some 15,000 hours in flight time by the Thai air force.

Elbit has also embarked on joint marketing efforts with the Czechs in South America, the Far East and Africa.

Barak, Sneh kick off Labor leader campaign

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

MKs Ehud Barak and Ephraim Sneh officially kicked off their respective campaigns for the Labor Party's leadership yesterday when they presented their candidacy forms at Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Barak, who obtained the signatures of 3,500 party members endorsing him for leadership - 1,500 more than the required 2,000 - said, "I see this as a necessary move for a vital process of renewal in Labor, which will ultimately bring us back to

power." Sneh, who presented 2,000 signatures, stressed, "I state explicitly that I am not a Bibi [Netanyahu] clone. Whoever wants a Bibi clone should not choose me."

Barak's campaign will be conducted under the slogan "Only with Barak we will win." Sneh's is: "Truth [Ezer: Labor's voting letters] - will win. Ephraim Sneh."

MK Yossi Beilin intends to present his candidacy later this month, while MK Shalom Ben-Ami said yesterday that he still hasn't decided whether to run.

JEWISH THOUGHT

JUDAISM
ILLUSTRATED
Lexicon of Terms & Concepts
YAKOV NEWMAN
GABRIEL SVIAN

Sambatyon
Essays on Jewish Holidays

Thirty-three essays by Michael Shashar on Jewish holidays, written from a religious Israeli perspective, providing a new dimension beyond that offered by the sources. Essays are accompanied by 24 color illustrations from archeological findings in Eretz Israel and from Medieval Jewish art manuscripts. Hardcover, 252 pp. WZO Torah Education Dept. JP Price NIS 42.00

Judaism A-Z

Yakov Newman and Gabriel Sivan present a lexicon of terms and concepts on Jewish heritage and way of life including Ashkenazi and Sephardi ethos and terminology, differences between Eretz Israel and Diaspora customs, and the impact of the rebirth of the State of Israel. Coricise, source referenced, cross referenced, illustrated and indexed. Hardcover, 342 pp. WZO Torah Education Dept. JP Price NIS 35.00

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